Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Did you vote in last week's election for a CNMI delegate to the U.S. Congress?

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42 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

New Reality
Job cuts, factory closures, and unpaid export shipments are driving home a new economic reality for China.

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Beyonce is ready for a challenge—to become Wonder Woman on the silver screen.

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Tim: Charges are fabricated

Lieutenant governor seeks dismissal of indictment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez said yesterday the charges against him were fabricated and that the federal court should dismiss the indictment.

Villagomez

Villagomez, through counsel David J. Lujan, said the U.S. government's conduct in bringing the charges against him was "outrageous."

Lujan said the U.S. government used "deceptive and coercive" means to fabricate a charge against the lieutenant governor.

"Specifically, it used the Public Auditor of the CNMI to create the appearance that wit-

See TIM on Page 4

Immigration proposes 2-year permits

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Division of Immigration has published proposed amendments to the CNMI immigration rules and regulations that allow for, among other things, two-year permits for selected

Grey

categories.

The proposedtwo-year entry permits will be issued to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, foreign investors, foreign students, and foreign workers, at the discretion of the Immigration director and upon finding that a two-year permit is in the interest of the Commonwealth.

The proposed regulations also state that the Immigration director shall make available

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WWII bomb officer joins Veterans Day rites

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

A Bomb Wing officer of the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II, Anthony Praxel, is joining today's Veterans Day ceremonies at the American Memorial Park.

Ruth A. Coleman, executive officer of the Military and Veter-

See WWII on Page 4

Kagman teens are named the CNMI's Best Dance Crew

Calling themselves I-Candy, this group of teenagers from Kagman won the first CNMI's Best Dance Crew competition, held yesterday at the Marianas High School Gym. With a performance by MTV Best Dance Crew finalist KABA Modern, the event drew hundreds of fans and spectators to the Susupe gym. ***See story and more pictures on Page 2***

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Local

Kagman teens are CNMI's best dance crew

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Six teens from Kagman, who arrived at the competition venue on a pickup truck yesterday morning virtually unnoticed, turned themselves into instant celebrities, signing autographs, enjoying picture taking with new fans, and ending up in a VIP Room at the posh Club V, where they savored the moment with members of KABA Modern after winning the first ever search for CNMI's Best Dance Crew that drew a huge crowd at the Marianas High School Gym.

With homegrown talent and team effort as their two main assets, the group members, who call themselves I-Candy, became the instant crowd favorite as they bested four other groups that made it to the finals.

Final Extreme placed second, TNT was third, Scoopz from Rota was fourth and Public Notice from Tinian, fifth.

Three other teams from Saipan—Level-up, Spectrum and Blackout—were eliminated during the preliminary competitions.

I-Candy is composed of Tom Pangelinan (Jolly Rancher), Roger Boyer Dris Jr. (White Chocolate), Tharnton Masayos (Sweet Tarts), Kyle Concepcion (Cookies N' Cream), Gregory Santos (Lollipop), and Scott Borja (Tootsie Roll).

"This is really so great. We're the best. We just do our dance steps and coordinate with each other. We had a lot of fun. We have no manager or choreographer," said Pangelinan while eager fans and relatives congratulated them a few minutes after the awarding ceremony.

As the best dance crew in the CNMI, I-Candy will have the chance to join Season 3 of MTV's America's Best Dance Crew competition in February.

Producer Ed Arriola, who was asked by I-Candy to manage the group, said he would work this out for the kids. He would submit a video of the event for placement in the MTV Network in order for the Kagman kids to realize their Los Angeles dream trip.

"We will work hard for it. We have to continue practicing and learn more steps," said Pangelinan.

Arriola said he would most likely accept the offer to be their manager.

Competitors of the MTV show will come from the East Coast, North Coast, South Coast and West Coast. If things work out, I-Candy will be included in the West Coast lineup.

Saturday's show also featured the electrifying moves of KABA Modern, one of the finalists in Season 2 of MTV's Best Dance Crew in January this year. The members are Mike Song, Jia Huang, Cindy Minowa, Tony Tran, Lawrance Kao and Yuri Tag.

Minowa and Kao echoed similar appreciation for I-Candy.

"They have great chemistry. They are going in the right direction. They deserve to win," Kao said.

Minowa said she was amazed by the big turnout for such a small community.

"Actually, all the teams have a lot of talents to offer but, as always, there must be a winner and I-Candy was really amazing for me. The crowd is so amazing too. I like also the two groups that made it to the top three," Minowa said.

It was a jam-packed crowd at the 1,600-capacity Gym.

Arriola said tickets were sold out two days before the competition, which was jointly sponsored by Tan Holdings Foundation, PTI, Mobil, Power 99/ Sorensen Media Group, Pepsi, KWAW 100.3, Continental Airlines, Hertz, G4S Security, Elite Printing, Sky Castle Limousines, and the *Saipan Tribune*.

Arriola said the presence of KABA Modern, who were here mainly as judges for the event, helped a lot in bringing in such a big crowd.

As early as 8am the fans, mostly youngsters, were already lining up at the gates.

Arriola gave special appreciation to the people who made the show successful such as Frank Eliptico of the Northern Marianas College Foundation and NMC president Carmen Fernandez and his two line producers, Ivan Quichocho and Ben Babauta.

"These were the people who gave their time and effort in the last two months to prepare the show," Arriola said.

The production included Alana Leon Guerrero, Benjamin Babauta, Ana Rae Deleon Guerrero, Tioni Alvarez, Ana Kim, Ramir Bialba, Jewel Villacorte, Kelvin Fitial, Marco Pua, Dina Jones, Fran Santos, Josh Diaz, Oscar Yema, and DJ Jeyrock.

Members of I-Candy pose with friends and family after winning the first ever CNMI Best Dance Crew competition at the Marianas High School Gym on Sunday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

The stars of MTV's Season 2 finalist KABA Modern perform at the Marianas High School Gym on Sunday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

One of the members of KABA Modern, Cindy Minowa, struts her stuff before a huge crowd at the Marianas High School Gym on Sunday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

KABA Modern dancers shake hands with their fans after a performance at the Marianas High School Gym on Sunday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

The stars of MTV's Season 2 finalist KABA Modern during a performance that electrified the audience at the Marianas High School Gym on Sunday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Hundreds of people, mostly teenagers, scramble to enter the Marianas High School gym to watch the first ever CNMI Best Dance Crew competition on Sunday.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Yumul resolution 'reckless' and 'irresponsible'

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has called "reckless" and "irresponsible" a lawmaker's resolution urging against additional tax breaks for the investor behind the multimillion-dollar construction project at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

Fitial in a press statement yesterday said the resolution is "an attempt to sabotage the CNMI's economic recovery efforts during a time of global financial crisis."

The statement reads, "This irresponsible resolution proposes to deny critical qualifying certificate investment incentives to the CNMI's largest anchor investor, the Kumho-Asiana Group, at a very critical time for our economy. And I am gravely disappointed that such a reckless resolution could even be offered at this critical time."

The resolution, introduced by Rep. Ray N. Yumul, urges the Commonwealth Development Authority to deny a request to add benefits under the qualifying certificate program to Saipan LauLau Development, a subsidiary of the South Korean conglomerate Kumho Asiana.

Fitial

Yumul

Pointing to the global economic crisis, Fitial said that now is not the time to be withholding critical investment incentives. "The Korean won has weakened against the dollar and the South Korean stock market and banking and financial system have not been spared from the global financial meltdown and credit crisis," he said.

He also noted that the Kumho Asiana Group has been investing in the CNMI since 1992 and has added flights and capital to the Northern Marianas, despite suffering major losses over the years.

"This is not how we should express gratitude to a committed investor," said Fitial.

Over the past year, Asiana Airlines has significantly expanded flight service to the CNMI, launching flights from Russia, China, Japan, and other cities in South Korea, such as Incheon and Pusan. The Kumho-Asiana Group is currently embarking on a major golf resort development at the Saipan Laulau golf site it acquired from the United Micronesian Development Association.

Fitial also took exception to language in Yumul's resolution urging the governor to keep his hands off of negotiations between CDA and Saipan LauLau Development.

"I was elected to help bring investments into the Commonwealth and this is a job I take very seriously," said Fitial. "I believe it is my job to bring in investments, but I also strongly believe it is not the job of any elected representative to chase away the investments I have worked so hard to bring in for the people of our islands."

Earlier this year, CDA and Fitial approved a plan to provide up to $18 million in tax relief for the $68.8 million golf hotel, or "golftel," a complex with condominium-style apartments for golf tourists. The tax relief ceiling is significantly less than the $27.7 million the resort had requested.

Saipan LauLau Development and the governor are now asking CDA to amend the qualifying certificate to increase the incentive cap. In response, CDA has taken steps to amend its regulations and allow for reconsideration of an approved qualifying certificate.

"We're basically bending over backwards to accommodate [Saipan Laulau Development]," Yumul has said in an interview. "As chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means, I am concerned because all of these tax breaks affect government revenue."

In his resolution, Yumul also argues that the government has more than shown its support for the investor. He notes that the Legislature has granted the resort a new 40-year lease agreement for 161 hectares of land at a rental rate of $103,000 a year, a substantial decrease from the original rental amount of $384,000. He adds that the investor has been given relief from all applicable taxes, except for alcoholic beverage tax.

"[T]he current benefits such as the low rental rate … and the benefits of the current qualifying certificate granted to Saipan LauLau Development Inc., are sufficient as an investment incentive," the resolution states.

CUC collects $90 million plus in fiscal year 2008

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. collected more than $90 million from customers during the fiscal year 2008 billing cycle.

Altogether, the utility company charged customers $110,440,125 and collected $91,466,366 for more 274 million kilowatt hours used.

May 2008 saw the lowest month of collections at $5.8 million while July 2008 saw the highest month of collections at $8.6 million.

Because of the way the billing cycles work, October collections, for example, are from the August-September usage period.

For the latest month recorded, October 2008, CUC collected $7.4 million for nearly 15 million kilowatt hours. The October 2008 collection period, which would be the August-September usage period, saw the lowest amount of kilowatts used by customers.

Since October 2007, usage has declined from 24 million kilowatt hours to 15 million kilowatt hours for the October 2008 collection period.

But the usage numbers were before the Aggreko generators were brought in, which stabilized power, said Antonio Muña, CUC executive director.

The collection period months of July, August, September and October 2008 saw the lowest usage numbers, but this was also when the outages were the most severe, he added. During the month of July, there were 896 hours of outages, and the month of August saw 725 hours of outages.

Through Oct. 24, this month has seen 44 hours of outages.

Despite the low usage rates during the July through October collection cycle, the four months saw some of the highest total charges and collection rates during the fiscal year.

Judging by the use of fuel at the power plants, Muña said he anticipates 20 million kilowatt hours will be used for this month's usage cycle.

In May, CUC more than doubled the power rates for customers.

New law gives $20K to House of Manhoben

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has signed into law a bill appropriating funds for Karidat's teen center and other programs.

The new law takes $120,000 from Precinct 2 projects and transfers them to three programs on Saipan. Specifically, the legislation grants $20,000 to Karidat, for the House of Manhoben; $25,000 to the Northern Marianas College's bookstore for renovations; and $75,906 for a road project in Precinct 1.

The original bill had proposed to re-appropriate only $20,000 to Karidat, which had been forced to shut down the youth center after certain key grants expired and were reduced.

Over the years, the House of Manhoben has been a sub-grantee of federal funds from the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The latest grant expired on Sept. 30, 2008. But Karidat has not received word about continuation of funding for the program.

"Due to the lack of funding beyond Sept. 30, Karidat has no other resources nor option but to close the Teen Center," Angie Deleon Guerrero, executive director at Karidat, had told the Legislature.

She had asked the Legislature to appropriate at least $12,250 for the "bare necessities" of the House of Manhoben. She said the amount would be enough to keep the agency open until the CJPA becomes available in January 2009. About $8,000 is for the salary, and $4,000 for the health insurance and benefits of the program coordinator. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

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'20th Cursillo Encounter a success despite crisis'

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The president of the World Organization of the Cursillo Movement, known as the Organismo Mundial de Cursillos de Cristiandad, said the CNMI did an excellent job of hosting the 20th Asia-Pacific Encounter at the Palms Resort Saipan.

The gathering, Juan Ruiz said, went smoothly and, despite the worldwide economic crisis, the organizers were able to pull their resources together and come up with good results.

Rev. Fr. Ryan Jimenez of Mt. Carmel Church, president of the CNMI's Cursillo Movement, said they were able to come up with ways to have a successful gathering.

"We have achieved our goal and that is to be committed 'to be a friend, make a friend, and bring a friend to Christ.' This was the emphasis of the event," Jimenez said.

"When they go back to their countries, they will be more committed," he added.

Some 80 participants from six nations, including Australia, Vietnam, Korea, Taiwan, Guam and the CNMI, participated.

Taiwanese nationals living in Los Angeles will host the 21st Encounter in 2010.

Jimenez thanked the local community for being there to give their support.

Ruiz explained that the Cursillo Movement is divided into four regions: Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe and Latin America.

Tam Nguyen, who was once a refugee from Vietnam and is now living in Australia, is the president of the Asia-Pacific region.

Nguyen also lauded the smooth conduct of the event, which is held every two years. Saipan also hosted it in 1999.

"It was very well organized. It really builds up this community. It's just like a big family," said Ruiz, who is on his first visit to Saipan.

"I love the beach, the people are nice and warm and they really make us feel at home," he said.

Husband and wife Yvonne and David Carrigan from Australia were also glad to come here for the first time and would love to come back for another chance.

"We are very impressed with the hospitality. We had an extensive tour of the islands," the Carrigans said.

They said the people of Saipan are really concerned about "the future of their beautiful island."

The participants attended a Mass at the Mount Carmel Church on Sunday, the final day of the four-day encounter.

BIRTHDAY GIRL
Happy birthday greetings go out to Debbie dela Paz, who is celebrating her birthday today, Nov. 11, 2008. Greetings come from Papa and son DJ.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL
KRISTI EATON
Approximately 100 Public School System student leaders attend a Youth Advisory Panel at Saipan World Resort on Thursday. The conference was intended to gather feedback from students on how the CNMI's educators can improve the learning process.

Surveillance plane keeps tabs on Tonga waters

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—A Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3K Orion aircraft with 17 crew members arrived at Fua'amotu International Airport on November 5 for a three-day visit on its monthly surveillance mission of Tongan waters.

Flight Commander Michael Williams said that the RNZ Air Force carried out regular surveillance, security and the patrolling of South Pacific Islands' waters against illegal fishing as part of their service to the region. They have rescued lost Tongan fishermen, found yachts that have washed up on reefs, and in January they found a Taiwanese fishing vessel, the Chu Huai 638, fishing illegally in Tonga's waters.

Viliami Mo'ale and Flight Cmdr. Michael Williams

The New Zealand high Commissioner to Tonga, HE Christine Bogle said in a statement today that, "New Zealand has been assisting Tonga in taking forward a prosecution against that vessel."

New Zealand is responsible for patrolling six million square miles of ocean, including most of the South Pacific waters, against illegal unreported and unregulated fishing.

The Tongan government through the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) is pressuring the Taiwanese government to pay compensation for the illegal fishing of the Chu Huai 638.

It has been estimated that over US$400 million worth of fish is taken illegally out of the Pacific Islands' waters annually.

Flight Cmdr. Williams said that the RNZAF carry out surveillance flights over Tongan waters on a monthly basis.

It is understood that surveillance over South Pacific Islands' waters is carried out also by the Australian and the French.

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IMMIGRATION

From Page 1

automatic two-year permits for permanent residents of the CNMI—should permitting be required for any reason.

In a public notice, Immigration Director Melvin Grey stated that the proposed revisions are intended "to renumber the regulations to conform with the numbering system adopted for the NMI Administrative Code, to incorporate changes provided for in the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007 (Public Law 15-108), the statute that repealed and replaced the Nonresident Workers Act under which some of the prior regulations had been promulgated, and to clarify certain provisions."

Irene Tantiado, president of the United Workers Movement NMI, has raised issue with the changes as the two-year permitting is not available for immediate relatives of Federated States of Micronesia citizens.

Another issue, Tantiado said, is that the Immediate Relative status of these alien spouses might be lost when the federal takeover happens on June 1, 2009.

Tantiado said the organization would be holding a meeting for all FAS citizens with alien spouses on Nov. 16, 2008 at 5pm. The venue will be announced later.

WWII

From Page 1

ans Affairs Office, said that Praxel was with the 9th Bomb Group, 313th Bomb Wing, 99 squadron on Tinian.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and keynote speaker Maj. Gen. Stephen D. Tom will be joining Praxel at the ceremonies, which will start at 11am at the Court of Honor.

Coleman, along with JROTC Cadet Major Olivia Serrano, will be the mistress of ceremonies.

The Saipan Southern High School's JROTC cadets and Manta Ray Battalion will be posting the different flags of the 51 states of the U.S. and its territories, including the CNMI.

This would be followed by the singing of the U.S. National Anthem and CNMI Anthem by the Pacific Winds Concert Band and an invocation by Pastor Clifford Shoemake. AMP Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum will deliver the opening remarks.

Tom, the chief of staff of the U.S. Pacific Command based in Hawaii, will speak after Fitial delivers his welcome address.

Fitial, along with Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 Commander Mariano G. Fajardo and first lady Josie Fitial, will be leading the presentation of medallions to veterans attending the ceremonies.

After the 21-gun salute, Fitial and Tom will join all the veterans in the laying of wreaths.

The Pacific Winds Concert Band Buglers will end the ceremony with the playing of taps.

The Veterans Day Committee, in a statement, urges the public to come out and join in the celebration honoring those brave patriots who served with unwavering dedication and purpose, sacrificing personal comforts to keep the world safe and "securing the freedom we enjoy today."

TIM

From Page 1

nesses, most, if not all, government employees of the CNMI, were compelled to cooperate with the United States, and by coaching, instructing, and training a named defendant in this action, Anthony Guerrero, to unsuccessfully attempt to entice defendant to commit a criminal violation of some sort to fabricate a case against him," the Guam lawyer said.

Lujan said that Guerrero tried in vain from July 20 through July 22, 2008, to entrap Villagomez with several taped phone calls.

"It can only be assumed that the government provided him with the equipment to make and record the calls, and coached him. The circumstances support an evidentiary hearing on these issues," the lawyer said.

Lujan attached in the motion to dismiss a copy of the transcripts of telephone conversations between Villagomez and Guerrero.

Guerrero is a former executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

As shown by the transcripts, Lujan said, Villagomez clearly advised Guerrero to retain an attorney for his protection and to simply tell the truth.

"If Guerrero was already telling the truth, why the attempt to entrap Villagomez other than at the behest and instruction of the government? Villagomez had no predisposition to commit any crime at any time," he said.

Yet the U.S. government used these covert and misleading methods [and possibly more] to try and trap Villagomez, Lujan said.

"Granted, the government must have a certain leeway to conduct its criminal investigations; however, it should not include the deceptive attempts to create a crime where none exists," he said.

Lujan said the U.S. government's behavior calls for the dismissal of the indictment if its action is "excessive, flagrant, scandalous, intolerable and offensive as to violate due process."

The trial of Villagomez, along with his co-defendants, has been set for March 23, 2009.

The deadline for Villagomez to file pre-trial motions was set no later than yesterday, Nov. 10.

Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James Santos, Joaquina Santos, and former CUC executive director Guerrero were indicted with conspiring to bilk CUC out of thousands of dollars through business deals involving needless chemical purchases for CUC.

Villagomez and the Santos couple have insisted on their innocence. Guerrero has already entered a guilty plea.

Fitial to US House: Let Kilili attend briefing

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday asked the U.S. House of Representatives to include Gregorio Sablan, the Commonwealth's presumptive congressional delegate, to the briefing for new congressional members.

Fitial, in a letter to the House Committee on Administration, assured chairman Robert A. Brady that the final result of the CNMI election, which is expected to confirm Sablan's triumph, will reach the committee in time for the second day of the orientation program.

The briefing will be held on Capitol Hill from Nov. 17 to 21.

Results of the precinct voting show that Sablan is leading his closest rival, incumbent Washington Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, by 360 votes. Although the outcome of the absentee voting will not be revealed until Nov. 18, it is widely held that it will uphold Sablan's victory in the polling places. With the time zone difference, Sablan's election should be certified by the early hours of Nov. 18 in Washington, D.C.

Sablan

"Mr. Sablan is the first elected delegate to serve from the Northern Mariana Islands, and it is important to our people that he be able to participate fully in your orientation program. This is an historic occasion for us as we have waited more than 30 years to have an elected delegate," Fitial told Brady.

He continued, "Our current election processes are not geared to your schedule, but we will be addressing that problem shortly with our Legislature."

On Sunday, Sablan announced a plan to travel to the Washington, D.C. on Friday, Nov. 14, to attend the orientation. His plan is to stand by and wait there until the absentee ballots are tabulated and confirm him as winner of the election.

"Although I will not have been certified the winner of the election by the time I leave for Washington, the people of the NMI have waited too long to be represented so I'm not going to miss any opportunity to start building relationships in Congress and learning about the tools the Delegate will have to improve life in the CNMI," he said in a statement.

During his trip, Sablan also plans to meet with Tenorio to discuss the transition from the CNMI Washington representative's office into the new delegate's office.

House Floor Leader Joseph Camacho, a member of the NMI Republican Party who has supported Sablan's independent bid for congressional delegate, will travel with Sablan.

CUC cancels RFP on two engines because of unresponsive bidders

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was forced to cancel a request for proposals to overhaul two engines at Power Plant 1, after the utility company did not get a responsive bid from the two companies that earlier expressed interest.

CUC received a $6 million proposal from Mitsubishi and a $1 million bid from Commonwealth Industrial Supply Co. Inc. to overhaul engines number 5 and 7. But the state of the engines and the guaranteed output affected the bidders, CUC executive director Antonio Muña said yesterday.

"Anyone coming in here is going to look at what's on the ground is going to be overwhelmed," Muña said.

"When we start talking about the overhaul, you can go to the manual and go to the page, 'This is what you need to do on an overhaul,'" he said. "The problem you have is that because of the neglect, you may need more than what the manual says for the overhaul. And that we cannot ascertain until you take the engine apart."

In order to guarantee there is 85 percent output, all parts need to be looked at, like the auxiliary, cooling and piping systems, when overhauling an engine, Muña said.

Mitsubishi could not guarantee 85 percent output, while CISCO could guarantee the required output but would not be able to overhaul the electrical system, something CUC needs, he added.

CUC will now decide if it will overhaul the engines itself or try another request for proposals.

"We need to revisit as far as either doing it ourselves, going out and redoing the bid… maybe tweak it a little bit," he said.

There are some things CUC can learn from the process, Muña said. For the past year-and-a-half there have been no detailed logs on what has been done on the engines.

"When you buy a vehicle, sometimes you want to look at what kind of history it has," he said.

But Muña added, "It's not to blame anyone at the plant, the blame game isn't where we're at. It's about fixing the problem. How do you correct not having records? It's not about going backwards. It's about going forward."

CUC put out the request for proposals in the latter part of July for the overhaul work on engines number 5 and 7.

CUC initiated the emergency RFP after it terminated the contract of the previous contractor, Guam-based DCM Group, in July 2008 after the company reportedly failed to repair the generators as required by the $5.1 million deal.

FIRE CADETS
Fire cadets from the 9th Fire Cycle Academy undergo field training in Emergency Vehicle Operation Course, taught by Sgt. Anthony Macaranas.
LEI OGUMORO

Couple nabbed for 'ice' trafficking, possession

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested on Friday a man for allegedly trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" and his wife for possession of "ice."

Zhauo Fan Zhang, 29, alias Mr. Jun, was apprehended for illegal possession of a controlled substance and trafficking of a controlled substance. His wife, Ying Lian Yao, 30, was detained for illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Zhang and his wife, both Chinese, were brought yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing before Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman.

Wiseman imposed a $30,000 cash bail for the temporary liberty of Zhang and $10,000 cash bail for Yao.

Preliminary hearing was set for Nov. 17 at 9am.

Detective Norman S. Rasiang stated in his report that on Oct. 30, 2008, members of the Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Bureau Narcotics Unit conducted a controlled purchase of "ice" from Zhang using a "confidential source."

Rasiang said the confidential source was able to buy $200 worth of "ice" from Zhang at a parking lot of a restaurant in Chalan Laulau.

Rasaing said that last Wednesday the same confidential source was again able to purchase $200 worth of "ice" from Zhang at a store in Koblerville.

Last Friday, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo issued an arrest warrant for Zhang for trafficking "ice."

Last Friday at 12:23pm, Local Drug Enforcement Task Force, with the assistance of CIB detectives, spotted Zhang's vehicle and pulled it over at the airport road.

Zhang was served with the arrest warrant, while his wife, Yao, who was the passenger, allegedly yielded "ice" concealed in a newspaper in her pocket.

The report did not mention how much "ice" was found in Yao's possession.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Board of Nurse Examiners Board of Directors, is hereby giving notice that the Board will be meeting from Wednesday, November 12, 2008. The meeting will be held at the Board's Conference Room, #1336 Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters -
1. Roll Call
II. Call to Order
III. Adoption of Minutes -
1. July 9-11, 2008
IV. Introduction of New Member - Arley Long, NP
V. Adoption of Agenda
VI. Unfinished Business -
1. Rules and Regulations
2. Emmanuel College Site Visit
3. University of Loyola Site Visit
4. Amendment of Nurse Practice Act 2003
VII. New Business -
1. Discussion of recent conference by Board Members
2. Update on CBNE Website
3. Add compliance provision in Rules and Regulations
4. Translation of Rules and Reg cover letter for publishing
5. Review letter to Senator regarding Board's issues.
6. Miscellaneous
VIII. Review and Approval of New Applications
IX. Adjournment

/s/ Bertha P. Camacho, NP
Acting-Chairperson, CBNE Board of Directors

House names federalization liaison members

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Members have been appointed to a task force that will serve as the Legislature's liaison on immigration federalization issues.

Speaker Arnold I. Palacios named Rep. Diego T. Benavente, chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations, Rep. Joseph James Camacho, and Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz to sit on the task force on behalf of the House of Representatives.

From the Senate, the task force members will be Sen. Felix Mendiola, chairman of the Senate Committee on Federal Relations and Independent Agencies, Sen. Jude Hofschneider, and Sen. Luis Crisostimo.

Benavente

Camacho

Dela Cruz

Mendiola

Hofschneider

Crisostimo

In an interview, Benavente said the task force needs to get organized immediately. He hopes the task force will have its first meeting tomorrow, Nov. 12.

"We have already defaulted on the visa waiver issue, which are due for release this month. But there are other provisions of the new immigration that will not be in effect until June 1st. Hopefully, we can provide some input in the drafting of those regulations," he said.

The task force was created after the House and Senate adopted a joint resolution calling for it. The resolution expresses the Legislature's desire "to be an informed participant, in collaboration with concerned public and private entities, in the development of [U.S. Public Law] 110-229 regulations at they pertain to the CNMI."

The job of the task force is to conduct public hearings, make official inquiries on federalization, and keep the Legislature informed of any development on the drafting of the regulations.

Benavente said, "This [legislative task force] will not be necessary if the administration is cooperating with the federal government on the crafting of the regulations. Because it's not, we feel it is necessary to get involved in the negotiations ourselves."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, who is suing the U.S. government over the labor provisions of the immigration law, has repeatedly said that negotiation is futile at this point, since the federal takeover of local immigration is now law.

CCAC readies annual Christmas exhibit

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Council of Arts and Culture said it is finalizing its preparations for the annual Christmas Exhibit.

Acting director Ramona Rebuenog said it would be a month-long activity from Dec. 1 to 31 near the CCAC office.

"We are currently contacting all the artists who have joined previous exhibits. We will be coming up with flyers to be posted in stores and schools very soon," Rebuenog said.

Arts coordinator Parker Yabui said this is an opportunity for local artists to showcase their crafts and at the same time sell their products.

"We're inviting artists as well as the public to participate and feel the spirit of the holiday season," Yabui said.

Meanwhile the CCAC has tentatively set the date for the two-day Music Festival at the Garapan Fishing Base from Dec. 5-6.

This event will be held for the first time in the CNMI, which is aimed to revive and gather known musicians and upcoming ones to showcase their talents.

This festival is part of CCAC's effort to promote the sounds that people in the Marianas are familiar with.

Secretary Cecilia Taitano-Celes of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs earlier said they would make sure that this event would involve the legendary as well as current artists in the CNMI.

"This would showcase how the music of the Marianas really sound. We are coordinating with the Division of Youth Services since we will be tapping young singers to be strongly involved in this activity," Taitano-Celes said.

She said this is an opportunity for them to perform live in front of an audience.

Some of the legendary musicians that the Arts Council will be tapping to be part of the event are former congressman Candy Taman and three members of the board of directors of the Arts Council, David Peter, Joseph Diaz and Joe Limes.

She said a lot of them would be invited "so that they would be able to share their songs for the young talents to emulate."

PAGO PAGO PROJECT U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO/LT. J.G. RACHEL BECKMANN

Crewmembers aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Walnut*, a 225-foot seagoing buoy tender homeported in Honolulu, work on a navigational buoy near Pago Pago, American Samoa, Wednesday, Nov. 5, 2008.

Man gets 40 days for burglarizing warehouse

Burglar tried to sell stolen item to one who recognized it

The CNMI Superior Court handed down a 40-day prison sentence on a man who burglarized a warehouse in Gualo Rai, but was caught when he offered to sell a stolen pressure washer to an employee of the same warehouse.

Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo sentenced Kevin Mendoza Piol to five years in jail, all suspended except for 40 days, for burglary.

Govendo said after serving the jail term, the 21-year-old Piol shall be placed on five years of supervised probation.

The judge required the defendant to perform 100 hours of community service, and pay a $100 fine, $25 in court assessment fee, plus a probation fee.

During the entire five-year probationary period, Piol is prohibited from possessing and consuming alcoholic beverages.

Govendo set a review hearing for June 11, 2009, to determine whether the defendant has complied with all the terms and conditions of the sentence.

The Attorney General's Office charged Piol with burglary, theft, and criminal mischief. He entered a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to burglary.

According to the factual basis of the agreement, on or between Feb. 22 and 23, 2007, Piol burglarized JP Builders Warehouse on Saipan to steal a pressure washer.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that on Feb. 23, 2007, it was reported to the Department of Public Safety that JP Warehouse in Gualo Rai had been burglarized.

An employee of JP Builders Warehouse told police that a mesh wire that was installed around the storage facility had been untied.

Stolen from the warehouse were 22 indoor air-condition units, one box of 25 feet 5/8 copper tube, one box of 25 feet 3/8 copper tube, a 60-lb acetylene tank, a 30-lb oxygen tank and a red pressure washer. All items had an estimated value of $6,000.

Manacop said that on March 8, 2008, an employee of JP Builders Warehouse reported to police that he had information about the burglary.

The employee told police that earlier that morning, as he was about to leave his residence in Chalan Kanoa, two young males arrived and began asking if anyone would like to buy a pressure washer/water blaster.

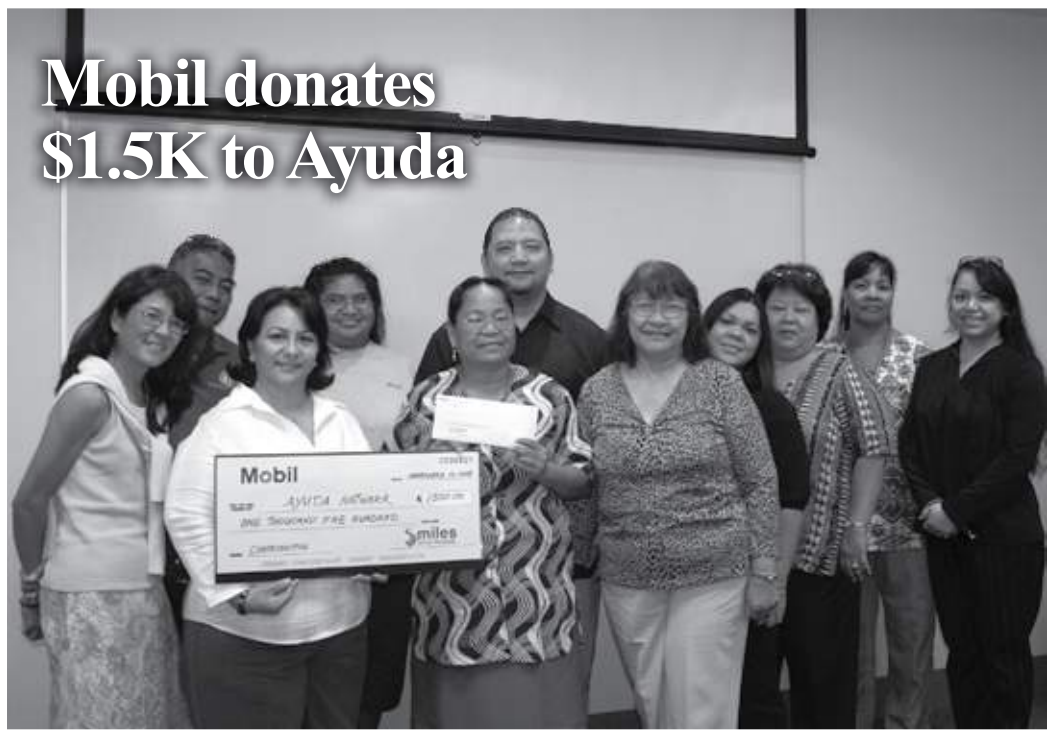
The employee noticed that the pressure washer was the same item that was stolen from their warehouse. The employee was familiar with the water blaster apparently because he had used it for more than eight years.

Manacop and Detective George David conducted a follow-up investigation that day on the car, leading to the identification of Piol.

Manacop said that Piol, when summoned to the Criminal Investigation Bureau, admitted he was the one who burglarized the JP Builders Warehouse and took the pressure washer.

At CIB, the employee identified Piol as the same person who tried to sell the pressure washer to him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Mobil donates $1.5K to Ayuda



KRISTI EATON

Members of the Diabetes Coalition, Ayuda Network and Marianas Health Services receive a check from Mobil Oil Mariana Islands.

Mobil Oil Mariana Islands has donated $1,500 to the Ayuda Network to help pay for t-shirts for the "Don't Be a Turkey Walk" on Nov. 29.

The money will help pay for t-shirts given to the first 200 participants, said Diana Camacho, acting executive director of Ayuda.

Cecile Bamba Suda, manager of the Public and Government Affairs for Mobil Marianas, said the company is happy to support health awareness, including diabetes.

"Health is one of our core focuses," she said. "We're trying to put more focus and pick our partners."

She said Mobil is so adamant about helping with heath services that it might increase funding in the future.

"Because health is a big part of our focus, even if it means other programs don't benefit, but because of what [the Ayuda Network and Diabetes Coalition] does with diabetes, I think the company would be willing to increase funding," Suda said.

It's important to focus on the youth when it comes to diabetes, said George Cruz, chairman of the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition.

"Diabetes is something that has affected all of our Pacific Islanders…if not in out adults, then in our youth," he said.

The Don't Be a Turkey Walk, in its eight-year, will offer a 5-kilometer or 10-kilometer walk. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

Veterans' access to dental benefits improves

By KAREN JOWERS
ARMY TIMES STAFF WRITER

A network of dentists and dental specialists will be set up for active-duty members who must seek dental care off-base, under a Defense Department contract awarded to United Concordia Cos.

In a related development, the Tricare Retiree Dental Program is now available for military retirees and their families who live overseas, as of Oct. 1.

The $660 million United Concordia contract, to begin Aug. 1, is expected to serve more than 100,000 active-duty members, the company said in a press release.

While active-duty members have been able to seek care in the civilian community if they were referred by a military dental facility, or did not live or work close to a military dental facility, a network of providers is a new feature, said Austin Camacho, a spokesman for Tricare Management Activity.

The network will cover the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands, Camacho said.

A network is "very important to access, particularly for National Guard and reserve members, in maintaining their dental readiness," said Joe Barnes, executive director of the Fleet Reserve Association and co-chair of the Military Coalition.

The contract provides care, without premiums, to active-duty members referred from military dental facilities for civilian care, as well as for dental coverage under the Remote Active Duty Dental Program. That program provides dental care to recruiters and others who live and work more than 50 miles from a military dental facility.

Guard and reserve members on active-duty orders for more than 30 days are included. In certain circumstances, service members no longer on active duty also may be eligible for coverage if they were injured while serving on active duty.

United Concordia said it will set up a referral and authorization process to help active-duty members get dent-al appointments online or through a representative.

The company will also track dental readiness to ensure service members are ready to deploy.

The new dental plan available for purchase by retirees and their families overseas provides:

■ Immediate coverage for routine, preventive and emergency services such as cleanings, exams, X-rays, fluoride treatments, fillings, oral surgery, periodontal treatment and root canals.

■ Coverage for implant services, crowns, bridges, dentures and orthodontics after a 12-month waiting period.

■ Dental accidental coverage.

According to the Tricare Web site, premiums are $36.97 a month for individuals, $71.25 for a family of two and $118.30 for a family of three or more.

PEACE MISSION NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Members of the Shikogakuen mission offer flowers at the Shiko Gakuen Monument, a 22-year tradition.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Members of the Shikogakuen Mission from Japan take part in the annual Peace Ceremony Service at Banzai Cliff on Saturday. The ceremony was led by Rev. Masakazu Kawakami, nephew of Rev. Seizan Kawakami, the founder of the Shikogakuen Mission.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
The Shikogakuen members offer flowers to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the monument, which was built in 1988 for all victims of the Battle of Saipan during World War II.

Happy birthday greetings go out to Patricia A. Concepcion. With love, from your family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

KUDOS CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Congratulations to Dustin Ross for winning second place in the Math Court competition held last Nov. 8, 2008. "We're very proud of you!"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Birthday greetings go out to Baybie Dee Hocog who is celebrating her 14th birthday today, Nov. 11, 2008. "Wishing you the best birthday ever and many more to come. We love you so much. Enjoy your day." Greetings come from Mom, Uncle D, your brother Junior and your sister Ki-Jana.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Birthday greetings go out to Jesus Marino N. Pua, who is celebrating his birthday today, Nov. 11. "May you have a wonderful and enjoyable birthday on Veterans Day." Greetings comr from your Dad, Mom, your sisters and the rest of the familia.

Toribiong wins Palau presidency

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Johnson Toribiong has been confirmed as Palau's new president, after receiving a concession phone call from his closest rival Elias Camsek Chin.

Toribiong was holding a 264-vote lead over Mr Chin, Palau's current vice president.

But following counting of some offshore votes, Mr Chin chose to concede, even though it will take several more days for official results to come through.

Toribiong succeeds President Tommy Remengesau, who was president between 2001 and 2008.

Toribiong says his clear message of economic development was what won him the position.

"We have to get together and promote our economic sef sufficiency and make Palau an investment friendly nation and put our people to work to minimise our reliance on foreign grants, because of the ever-declining U.S subsidy to our government."

The other Senate candidates who made it to the top 13 yesterday were attorney Raynold Oilouch, Sen. Mlib Tmetuchl, Delegate Joel Toribiong, businessman Mark Rudimch, community activist Kathy Kesolei, Director of Koror State Department of Conservation and Law Enforcement Adalbert Eledui, educator Regina Mesebeluu, Sen. Alfonso Diaz former cabinet minister Regis Akitaya, former state legislator Paul Ueki and former Ngaremlengui Gov. John Skebong.

Palau alien workers complain of abuse

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—Physical and verbal abuse, working long hours, and unpaid wages are among the common complaints being registered by foreign workers with the ministry of internal affairs' labor office.

Labor and Consumer Services director Helen Maunga says she regularly receives complaints and inquiries from foreign workers who do not want to disclose their identity.

For this reason, Maunga says many are reluctant to lodge formal complaints for fear of being deported by their employers.

"We've received complaints from foreign employees about their employer failing to pay wages on time, long working hours from dawn till dusk, no proper safety gear, two-jobs under one employment contract, improper working environment and sleeping quarters—just to name a few," she says.

Maunga says there will always be problem employers but some of the problems can be ironed out beforehand if an employment contract is formalized which covers the rights and obligations of all parties involved.

Maunga says employers intending to employ workers from outside the Cook Islands should comply with legal guidelines.

"The role of this office is to ensure that employers do comply with the relevant labor legislations of this country. In the past, I have seen contracts with provisions quoted from the laws of the Republic of the Philippines, Fiji and New Zealand!"

And if employers can't pay their foreign workers, then Maunga says they shouldn't be bringing in workers in the first place.

Maunga says contracts should include a clause to state that in the event of any dispute, it should be referred to the labor office for mediation or investigation.

AP PHOTO/NEW ZEALAND HERALD, MARK MITCHELL

NEW PRIME MINISTER

New Zealand's Prime Minister-elect John Key right, holds a kitten given to him by Billy Taroa, left, for a photo opportunity as he arrived on the steps at Parliament in Wellington, New Zealand, Monday, Nov. 10, 2008. Voters on Saturday elected the wealthy former currency market trader to lead them through the global financial meltdown, handing long-serving left-wing Prime Minister Helen Clark a crushing defeat.

Cooks lawmakers quietly seek raises

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—After all the political denials, it turns out the 'secret' draft amendment has indeed proposed increases toMembers of Parliament allowances and entitlements under the Civil List.

Cook Islands News obtained a copy unofficially yesterday.

Government has been so secretive about the document that it hasn't even responded to CINews requests for a copy under the Official Information Act.

Civil List minister Kete Ioane has denied that any increase in allowances and entitlements for MPs has been discussed at the two meetings held recently about the amendment to the Civil List.

Ioane also denied that the draft amendment had anything to do with changing allowances or entitlements.

The "secret" amendment, however, is designed to revoke the 2007 remuneration tribunal order and replace it with an order that will change and increase some payments made to MPs under the Civil List.

Thursday's CINews article on the secret meeting of MPs to discuss these increases has been slammed by prime minister Jim Marurai as being unsubstantiated.

And it turns out there are several more changes to the 2007 order than just the provision Marurai claims was accidentally left out last year.

CINews reported that MPs were planning to discuss raising entertainment allowances, increasing the number of funded trips for outer island MPs to Rarotonga to cover any government related business instead of just parliament, and a suggestion that all MPs travel business class.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Bougainville presidential candidates line up

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Four prominent Bougainvilleans have already put their names forward to contest the Presidency of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province, following the issuing of election writs on Thursday. Nominations remain open for a week with the election to begin in Dec 6. The election follows the sudden death of the province's first President, Joseph Kabui, last June. There will also be a by-election for the vacant Ramu seat in the ABG assembly. Those expected to contest presidency include the ABG Speaker, Nick Peniai, former separatist militant leader Sam Kauona, a longtime MP in the national Parliament Sam Akoitai and James Tanis, who also ran in 2005.

Ousted Fiji editor faces trial on Monday

MELBOURNE, Australia (Radio Australia/PIR)—A court case set down for mention in Fiji on Monday is calling for the jailing of the editor and publisher of the *Fiji Times*. The interim government claims the newspaper is in contempt for publishing a letter to the editor criticizing the recent High Court Judgement by Justice Anthony Gates that found the President acted properly in dismissing the Qarase government in December 2006. The government now wants full disclosure of the whereabouts and address of the author of the letter who currently resides in Brisbane, Australia. Fiji's interim attorney-general Aiyaz Sayed-Kaihyum told Radio Australia's Pacific Beat program that the incident must be dealt with.

Eight-year-old Fijian boy kills self

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—Ashneel Anish Kumar, 8, could be the youngest victim of suicide. According to psychotherapist Selina Kuruleca, a few years ago a nine and 11-year-old took their lives because of exam pressure. She said all ages are vulnerable to mental stress and depression and the youngest she has treated was nine years old. Last year, almost 170 people took their lives about 40 per cent of whom were aged between 16 and 25. Studies have shown that women of Indian descent were five times more likely to commit suicide. Recently, a school yard romance between two 14-year-olds—one a Muslim and the other Hindu—caused controversy when one of them died after drinking weed killer.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

NOVEMBER 11, 1999

U.S. Senate spares NMI from wage hike

Local officials expressed relief yesterday when the U.S. Senate voted down legislation seeking to extend to the CNMI a raise in the federal minimum wage, a move that would have hiked present rate of $3.05 to $6.15 an hour. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio welcomed the news, but said the Commonwealth will continue to hammer out its own plan to allow a gradual increase in the local minimum wage level to avoid economic disruption.

Kidnap attempt draws new security concerns

The kidnapping attempt on the son of one of Saipan's biggest garment manufacturers has triggered fresh concerns from the government regarding public safety and growing criminal activities on the island. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has summoned administration officials for a meeting tomorrow to discuss the case, and seek ways to prevent such incidents in the future.

NOVEMBER 11, 2000

Leaking diesel tank spills 1,000 gallons

Approximately 1,000 gallons of diesel were spilled from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Lower Base power plant facility, located just a few meters away from the Saipan Lagoon shoreline. Visiting U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region IX official Mike Lee, an environmental engineer, disclosed that one of the CUC tanks containing diesel was found to be leaking some months ago, necessitating the emptying of the tank.

Cleanup team takes on Garapan drainage

As representatives from different government agencies prepare for a major cleanup of the Garapan drainage system tomorrow, the Environmental Interagency Cleanup Operation Team said the effort is just a springboard toward the rehabilitation of other tourist spots on Saipan, some of which have become illegal dumping sites. "Once we're done with Garapan, we will address other areas next," said EICOT chair Benny Pangelinan, coastal coordinator at the Coastal Resources Management Office.

NOVEMBER 11, 2001

Suspected drug peddlers fall

Two other suspected drug traffickers fell to the hands of authorities on the same day, including Paul Villanueva Ada, who is also known as Paul Madok. Besides the two, authorities presented Zhen Rong Yang, before the Superior Court yesterday. With Gov. Juan N. Babauta stressing the need to beef up local enforcement to curtail illegal drug trade, CNMI operatives yesterday scored against suspected drug traffickers, arresting three of them-including a businessman.

DPS vows: More to follow

Authorities are now looking into a possible operation of a drug cartel in the Commonwealth following the arrest of four individuals in separate operations over the weekend, which yielded undetermined amount of cash and illegal substance. Police Commissioner Edward Camacho refused to associate the arrested individuals to a drug syndicate but he also did not rule out the possibility that the suspects may be involved in a bigger drug trafficking operations in the Northern Marianas.

NOVEMBER 11, 2004

$3.4M land payment stopped

Only last week, a Saipan family stood to receive $3.45 million as compensation for the property where the Marianas High School sits. That family may now end up with nothing, after the Attorney General's Office said the payment of the land compensation might be illegal. Assistant attorney general Benjamin Sachs asked the Commonwealth Development Authority on Monday not to process a $3.45-million drawdown request made by the Marianas Public Lands Authority for the benefit of the Maliti Estate.

Karidat welfare aid declines in 6 years

The number of immigrants in the CNMI receiving assistance from Karidat has declined in the last six years. Records from Karidat showed that from an average of 400 welfare families from 1998 to 2001, the number dropped to just over 200 in 2003.

New batch of Saipan singing superstars

The New Saipan Singing Superstar, Michele Villaraza.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michele Villaraza, a 25-year-old crooner of a local acoustic band, bested 15 other grand finalists Friday night last week to become this year's Saipan Singing Superstar. She also romped off with the PTI Text Star award after garnering a total of 16,279 text votes from her supporters.

Marvin Espeleta garnered the second winner's spot and placed third in the PTI Text Star Category, garnering a total of 11,101 text votes. He was also given a special award as the Most Promising Male Star.

Charie Ramos got the third place trophy and the Female Concert Star, while fourth placer, Janee Babauta, won second place in the PTI Text Star category with 14, 325 votes.

Gigi Hernandez received the Production Number Hall of Fame award while Ricky Custodio copped the Mr. Heartthrob award and sixth place in the singing competition. He also got the PTI Text Star Hall of Fame award for topping the text votes for three weeks.

Fourth placer Janee Babauta.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Third placer Charie Ramos.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Oscar Yema gives GG Hernandez the "Production Number Hall of Fame" award.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Judges Anna Glushko and Dr. Oden give Marvin Espeleta the "Most Promising Male Star" award.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The dramatic entrance of Demalynn Sablan.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The *Greased Lightning*-inspired production number of Ricky Custudio.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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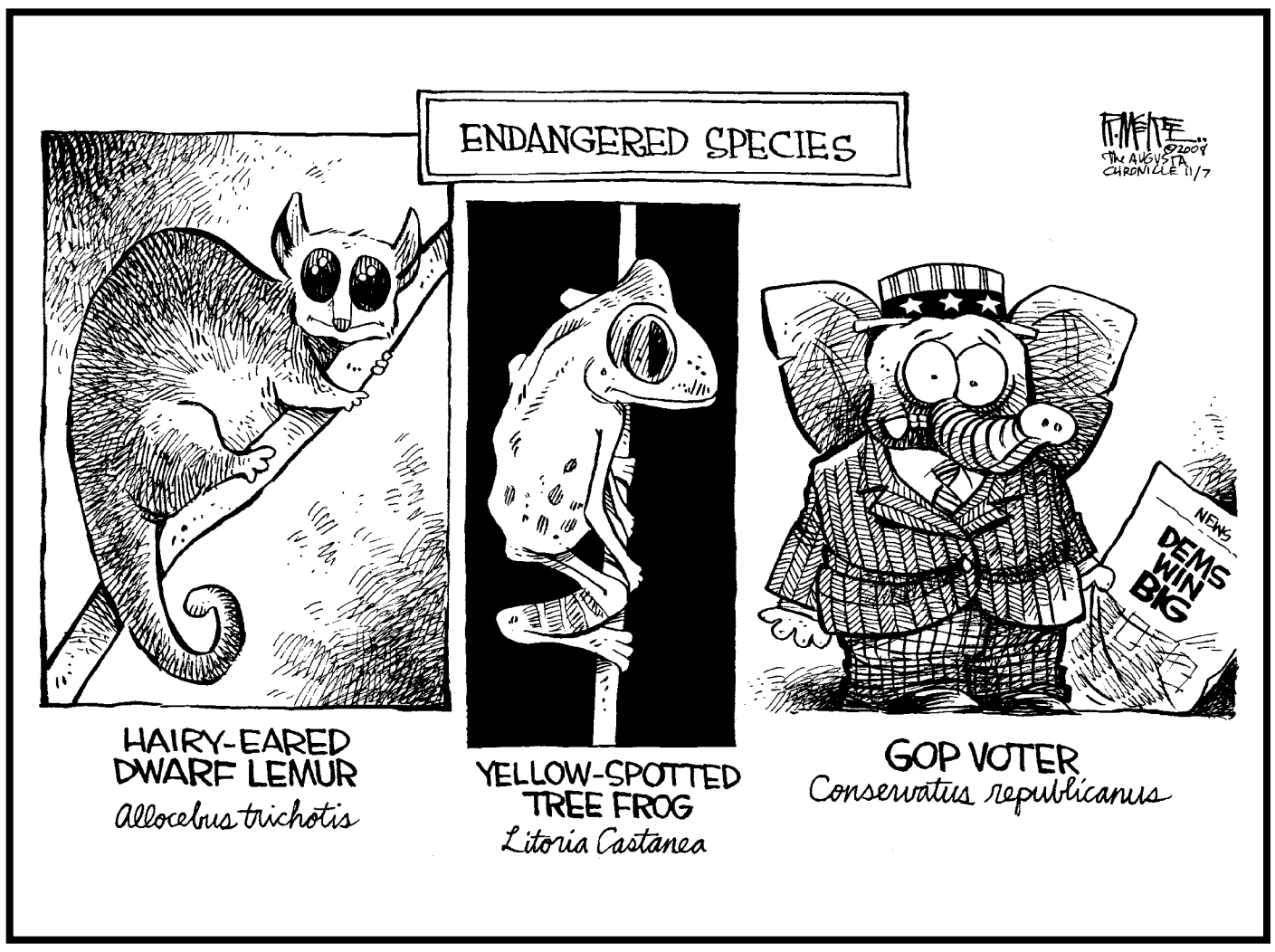


EDITORIAL

New lessons on voting

WASHINGTON—The millions of Americans who participated in Tuesday's historic presidential election should take a bow. From waiting in lines way too long to questioning challenges to their right to cast a ballot, voters showed remarkable persistence and patience. The need for such forbearance, though, suggests that more must be done to reform the electoral process so that no citizen is excluded from this most fundamental right of democracy.

Already lessons are emerging on what works and what doesn't. Most striking is the apparent popularity and success of early voting. States that allowed voters to go to the polls as early as two weeks before Election Day experienced fewer delays and problems. As the New York Times reported, early voting provided important wiggle room to both voters (able to clarify eligibility issues) and election officials (able to trouble-shoot equipment). More important, studies have shown that early voting results in greater participation. Thirty-two states allow some version of early voting, and the holdouts shouldn't wait for Congress to prod them to act.

Similarly, it's time to rethink another vestige of an earlier era—a voter registration system that not only prevents people from voting but causes myriad troubles for election officials. Without question, the biggest headaches this past election stemmed from voters wrongly purged from state rolls or election offices swamped with fraudulent applications. There's a growing clamor by voting rights advocates to shift the onus on registering from the individual to government. Not only would this remove the single biggest obstacle to voting (consider that in 2004, 28 percent of eligible Americans were not registered to vote), but it would make manipulation of the system harder. A proposal by the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law envisions states building registries through such existing databases as tax records and lists of licensed drivers. Voters who move wouldn't lose their rights, and election officials wouldn't spend the crucial weeks before elections having to deal with the administrative headaches of new, duplicate or phony applicants.

Figuring out the specifics of universal registration is tricky and will need careful study. State election officials are right to be leery of overly prescriptive measures by the federal government. What works in Los Angeles is probably not needed in Bismarck, N.D., where, incidentally, voters don't have to even register. All of the country, though, would benefit from a discussion of these voting issues—well before the next big election.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

A few Obama thank-yous

By COLBERT I. KING
Special to The Washington Post

WASHINGTON—In his Tuesday night acceptance speech, President-elect Barack Obama appropriately offered "thank-yous" to his family, campaign aides and voters who supported the Democratic ticket.

Now he may be dashing off thank-you notes to others who helped bring about his electoral college landslide. Here's hoping his list includes:

■ Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine. The allegiance of Obama's Democratic party allies should be measured against the standard: "BATK" (Before or After Tim Kaine.) Kaine endorsed Obama in February 2007, far in advance of most Congressional Black Caucus members and statewide elected officials outside of Illinois.

■ Bill and Hillary Clinton. Obama could not have asked more of the Clintons. Despite her bitter defeat in the race for the party's presidential nomination, they went all-out for Obama, urging disappointed supporters to get behind the Democratic ticket. The Clintons should be thanked for that. But there's another reason to thank them.

Obama wouldn't be set to become the nation's 44th president were it not for the toughening-up he got from the Clintons in the primaries. Everything was thrown at Obama: his inexperience and questionable associations, his so-called oratorical skills vs. a lack of substance, his supposed unreadiness to become commander in chief—charges that were also used by John McCain in the general election race.

By the time Obama locked horns with the GOP attack machine, he was battle-tested. For that, he owes the Clintons a special thank-you.

■ The Commission on Presidential Debates. The debate formats—one devoted exclusively to foreign policy and another to domestic policy, and a third using a town-hall-meeting style—gave Obama the opportunity to demonstrate his command of the issues and to show that he could coolly and ably defend his positions in a face-off with the more senior McCain. The debates elevated Obama's presidential stature—and took McCain down a peg or two.

■ The Rev. Jeremiah Alvesta Wright. In Liberty Baptist church, my childhood place of worship, I heard it preached: "Sometimes a stumbling block can be a steppingstone in disguise."

Wright, Obama's former pastor, may have fulfilled that wise saying. Without Wright's fiery and controversial sermons, short segments of which were repeatedly aired in the media, Obama would not have delivered his "A More Perfect Union" speech in Philadelphia.

The whole affair allowed Obama to address head-on the elephant in the room—race. Obama did it with candor and a sensitivity that reflected an insightful understanding of this American dilemma. It was a rare and reassuring performance by a presidential hopeful.

■ The U.S. Secret Service. The number of threats against Obama is kept confidential, but I'm reliably told it is huge. It's no secret that there are people who would harm him if they could. That Obama is on his way to the White House is a tribute to the men and women who, 24-7, put their lives and limbs between him and harm. They can't be thanked enough.

■ Bill O'Reilly and Sean Hannity. As a motivational strategy, coaches often post in locker rooms any nasty pre-game comments made by opposing players. O'Reilly and Hannity gave to Obama supporters plenty of fighting words.

Night after night, Hannity and O'Reilly, courtesy of their prime-time cable broadcasts, found new ways to get the juices of the Obama faithful flowing. The Fox channel was the bulletin board that conveyed the ugly remarks that motivated Obama's supporters to hand out more literature, work the phones, canvass door to door and vote by the millions.

■ Katie Couric. A thank-you note from Obama might embarrass the CBS News anchor, since her interviews with GOP vice-presidential nominee Sarah Palin was strictly a journalistic pursuit and not an effort to boost the Democratic presidential ticket.

The Couric-Palin interviews, though hardly the equivalent of the Wall Street meltdown, were excruciating to watch. They sent McCain's claim to good judgment up in flames.

Perhaps a thank-you note to Couric isn't in order. But a knowing smile the next time Obama sees her might do the trick.

■ Soul-searching Republicans. They are trying to figure out what went wrong. The emerging consensus: Republican candidates strayed from their core principles of fiscal conservatism and small government. Cramped thinking of that sort ensures the Republican party's minority status.

Roll the tape for a larger picture of the problem—and a glimpse of what lies ahead: Scan the faces of delegates to the Republican and Democratic conventions, as well as the McCain-Palin and Obama-Biden campaign crowds. Examine the demographic results in Tuesday's election.

Now consider the U.S. Census Bureau's population projections.

If the GOP does not become more inclusive and open to new ideas, it could take on the image (not the ideology) of F.W. De Klerk's now disbanded National Party of South Africa.

If that happens, Obama can thank narrow-minded Republican strategists.

I'm out of space, and the darn list keeps growing.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, Century Insurance Building, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

The shackles of racism

I'm more than disgusted in what should have been overcome with the newly elected President of the United States, Barrack Obama—racism. However, it has not and seems to still have a long road to extermination. What's worse is to whom the racism is directed and by whom it is being displayed. Although I am a native-borne, full blown Chamorro, I have been witness to the ongoing elitist views of a small group of our own people.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought non-violently for years to realize a dream of equality amongst all mankind. Malcolm X similarly exercised his rights as an American citizen to prove the intellect and strength of an oppressed people. But there remains the mold of corruption in the hearts of few who are destroying what these leaders fought for—to shed light in the eyes of Washington. The targets of hate are now of a different face primarily, but are reliving the hate our black brothers and sisters supposedly overcame during the civil rights movement.

As a substitute educator in one of the high schools in Guam, I vividly remember hearing the quiet ramblings of younger Chamorro teens toward their Micronesian brothers and sisters. It was most times audible enough for the Palau or Chuukese students to overhear easily, but quiet enough to be below the radar of most educators. Words and remarks dipped in hate have a tendency to bury itself deep in the heart of its target. Reading the *Saipan Tribune*, I again see the brush strokes of racism paint an almost surreal vision of discrimination toward our foreign workers. Filipinos, Korean, Chinese, and others are targeted as less than equal, and therefore less than human.

Hate is a virus not easily overcome but can breed with enhanced speed and accuracy. Contrastingly as interesting, I read the cries of our people calling on our leaders to have our voices heard as equals to the mainland citizens of the United States and, in the same breathe, claim the U.S. citizens in our own islands who are not Chamorro or Carolinian are barely worth mentioning. It is the most atrocious of two-facedness!

We are no better than our foreign brothers and sisters! Our ethnicity holds no bloodline more royal than theirs! This mindset has to change in order for our people to have a solid foundation of reasoning to bring to the tables in Washington. How can we ask for what we cannot, or will not, give?! Many of our children hold mixed bloodlines and many more will be sure to have less Chamorro or Carolinian blood purity in their genes, as years follow. Are they to hate their family members who are not of our native land? Are they to deny their fellow brothers and sisters the right to an equal voice simply because they are born of foreign descent? There is no worse hypocrisy should that become!

And now I ask you, I implore you, what defines taotao tano or Chamorro or Carolinian?? What defines Y Nasion Chamorro?! Is it the ancestry of our bloodline? Is it the ability to engage in conversation via our native tongue? Is it the structure of our physical features or the size and stature of our person? Is it the residence of our family? My father is Chamorro, as is my mother and their parents before them, and their parents before them again, for generations before. Our bloodline holds the pride and fierce determination of our ancestors! Does that make me Chamorro? And if so, am I therefore better than Filipinos, Koreans, or Chinese? My mother resides on Rota and my father resides on Saipan. My grandparents are one with our native lands, as are hundreds of our relatives before. I reside in the mainland. Am I now less than Chamorro? Are my children now less than Chamorro, because of me? My features resemble that of my parents and yet I am often mistaken for Hawaiian, Filipino, Mexican, Puerto Rican, and on and on. Does this lessen my ethnicity? Does it lessen my right to voice my concerns in my native land?

Being raised primarily in the United States mainland and having a mother who wanted me to learn as much as possible in predominantly English speaking schools, she almost never spoke our language to me or my siblings, as she wanted us to be proficient in the language of America, and therefore I can't engage in fluid Chamorro conversation. Am I now less a native than the Chamorros who can? No, I am not! I am proud of my heritage and our culture. I am educated enough to realize wrong from right and I will be the first to tell you, what is being said and done to our foreign brothers and sisters is WRONG! This treatment and mentality is worse than what white America did to the slaves in history past! American citizens died, bled, and cried in the streets of our nation to bring about change and equality.

Now, decades after, a man holding native African and White American blood in his veins is soon to take office as President of the United States of America. A man who lived in mainland America as well as Island America; who knows the culture of many ethnicities and has suffered the trials of the majority of Americans want. A man who has proven drive can bring about the realization of a dream! But while mainland America is realizing this truth, island America is intent on oppressing a select group of people because of their status, because of their ethnicity! Any of you, natives or elected leaders who hold the belief that merely because the CNMI is our native land and therefore natives are the only ones with a voice are more ignorant than the leaders of the Ku Klux Klan! Your hate is worse than the terrorist actions of the Middle East! Your pride will be the downfall of our culture!

Yes, we are Chamorro and Carolinian and it is the land of our ancestry, but the rights provided in the Constitution of the United States are rights for *all* American citizens, regardless of location! Their voices are equally important, as what Washington decides affects all residents of the CNMI. Those who are not American citizens and do not agree with the writings of the constitution can leave and will leave. Those remaining, if they are American citizens, should be given as much attention as any native.

Our people will not be free of the bonds of oppression while there are leaders watering the seeds of hate. We cannot expect Washington to heed our voice if we continue to allow the racial inequality to spread and grow. We cannot expect Washington to pay attention to our cause when all they find are elitist motivations from any few elected officials or from small groups of movers and shakers residing here. When we can freely open our arms to the other citizens residing with us; when we decide to vote for those representing integrity and drive for the progression of our people; and when we take action instead of talk, only then will the leaders in Washington truly see a reason worth their attention. Until then, the shackles of racism will continue to bleed our people and Washington will simply do what they are contracted to do, nothing more and I can't blame them.

Dwaine Blas Reyes
Sierra Vista, AZ

Locals are not racists!

This is to express my dismay over an offensive statement made by Mr. Jaime Vergara, who, in his letter to the *Saipan Tribune* titled "My chill factor in good morning, America!," wrote: "Great sentiment, but when I joined my San Vicente class the other day and announced my delight over Obama's election, one of my local students blurted out: the black Nigger? I was stunned. It was a knee-jerk response of a child echoing something he learned from his home and culture."

First of all, for Mr. Vergara to assume that the local student who blurted out the racist statement learned this behavior from his home and culture is completely false in that the phrase uttered by Vergara's student is not native to the CNMI. Therefore, it is actually Vegara who engaged in a knee-jerk reaction when he singled out the child's ethnicity (local) and hastily assumed that the local student learned this unacceptable behavior at home and via the child's culture. Believe you me, there is a huge difference between saying that the student learned the racist remarks from television, his friends, society, etc. and that of learning it from home and his culture.

Next, I want to know the real message Mr. Vergara was attempting to convey through his letter to the editor yesterday. Is he implying that the CNMI's indigenous or local population is racist? Is he implying that the CNMI or local populace is an oppressive people? Is he implying that the CNMI or local people are not mature enough to accept change? Mr. Vergara should take some time to enlighten us locals on this issue. As a PSS educator, it is Mr. Vergara's responsibility to teach this particular local student the right way of behaving and not chastise the local student or, in the case of his letter, condemn his own local student the way he publicly did when he expressively stated the following: "It was a knee-jerk response of a child echoing something he learned from his home and culture. And I hum *We Shall Overcome* while a young boy in the front row of my class has yet to hear and learn the message." Unless of course, his intentions as an educator are not to educate the child but instead, to seek 15 minutes of glory at the expense of his local student. If this is the case, then as a parent myself, I find it chilling to know that we have a PSS educator who engages in this repugnant activity. To this end, I want to share the following inspirational piece titled *Between Teacher and Child,* by Haim Ginnot, with Mr. Vergara: I have come to a frightening conclusion. *I am the decisive element in the classroom. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. As a teacher I possess tremendous power to make a child's life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration. I can humiliate or humor, hurt or heal. In all situations, it is my response that decides whether a crisis will be escalated or de-escalated, and a child humanized or de-humanized.*

Kimo Mafnas Rosario
As Gonno, Koblerville

Reality vs rhetoric

Congratulations to President-elect Barack Obama as he begins the transition period from rhetoric to reality. He would use executive orders to make an immediate impact on his promises to fix Wall Street and Main Street. It isn't an easy task given the global financial mess he's inherited. What matters is how does he get the $175 billion stimulus package to beleaguered homeowners.

Then there's the greater task of wealth and jobs creation. At least he's started by meeting with leaders of democracies around the world to stem a global financial meltdown that would send every street selling pencil. It's a monumental task and I hope and pray that through thick and thin, he would be able to have a clear vision in his mission mandated his presidency by a majority of Americans across the country.

So what's so historic about Obama's presidency? Never in my wildest imaginings did I dream that a non-Anglo Saxon would be commander-in-chief of our country. It happened during my lifetime! I was dumbfounded, miffed, though not necessarily euphoric about Obama's presidency. But then his election is a true manifestation of the political maturity of our country. Hope and pray he begins his presidency judiciously. He needs it and we *all* need it too!

Now, I've been quizzed on my vote in the recent so-called "historic" election for the NMI's first non-voting delegate. My answer is a crisp *nobody*! Pressed further, I offered a simple explanation: There's hardly any *equal* representation in a non-voting delegate. And I've made a commitment not to glorify a "feel good" exercise that makes a mockery of *equal* representation. Though this is the case, I still remain guardedly optimistic that someday we too shall overcome! A pleasant day for everyone!

John S. DelRosario Jr.
As Gonno, Saipan

Congratulation!

This is an open letter to congratulate Delegate-elect Gregorio "Kilili" Camacho Sablan: This will be an historic chapter for the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas.

Delegate-elect Sablan is my contemporary, as we both graduated from Marianas High School on June18, 1971, so I am asking all our classmates to join me in congratulating him.

Delegate-elect Sablan will surely address what the CNMI really needs, in terms of helping our poor economy, he will be our champion in our health needs and the education of our children and grandchildren.

I wish him well and I pray that he will overcome whatever obstacle he might face.

Frederick Q. Maratita
Rota

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°

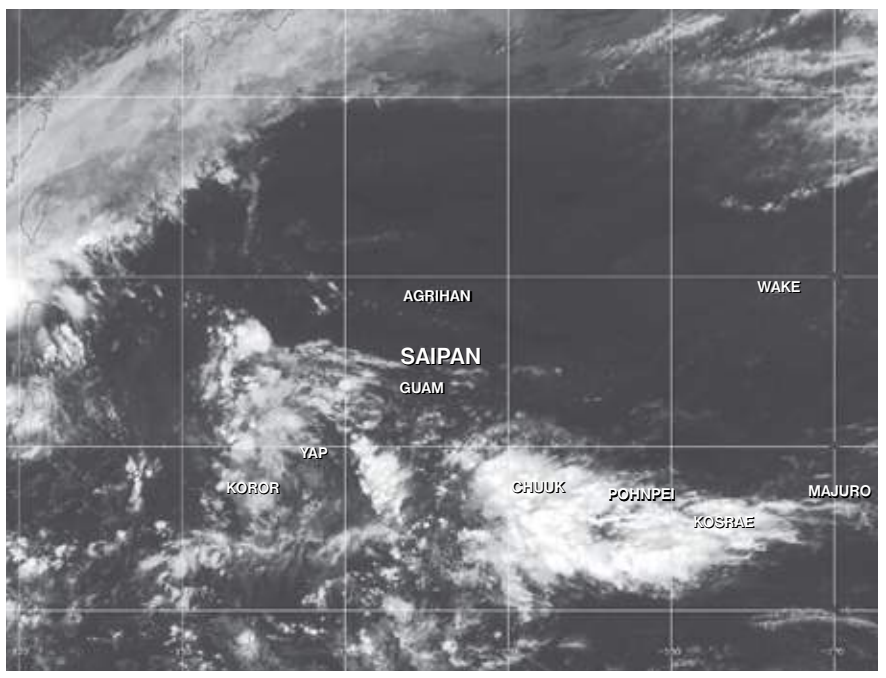
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼80
Majuro	Showers	▲82	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼60
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲55	▼32
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲77	▼64
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼72
London	Cloudy	▲52	▼41
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲70	▼54
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼75
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲82	▼66
Miami	Cloudy	▲83	▼70
New York	Sunny	▲52	▼41
Osaka	Cloudy	▲60	▼48
Paris	Cloudy	▲52	▼43
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲61	▼45
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼50
Salem	Rain	▲56	▼48
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼54
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼39
Tokyo	Showers	▲59	▼52
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲54	▼41

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends northward from EQ145E to 10N144E. Convergence near and to the east of the trough is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between Yap and Chuuk within an area bounded by a line from 13N140E to 8N140E to 3N148E to 6N148E to 13N143E back to 13N140E. Trade-wind convergence coupled with favorable upper-level dynamics is generating extensive cloud-cover. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae between 2N and 9N from 150E to 168E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
06:07AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:44AM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
05:29PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:17AM	5:45 PM
Wednesday	6:17AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:18AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:18AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:19AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:53PM	3:51AM
Wednesday	4:40PM	4:50AM
Thursday	5:33PM	5:54AM
Friday	6:33PM	7:01AM
Saturday	8:45PM	9:15AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 11, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:25am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:25am	11:05am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:30am	6:20am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai

OZ 608	1:30am	4:30am	2,6
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7

Guam-Manila

CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:25am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:15am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:40am+1	3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

OZ 607	5:30pm	12:30am+1	1,5
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6

Manila-Guam

CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

China's new reality: Economic boom is slowing

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—Job cuts, factory closures, unpaid export shipments—stalling worldwide demand for products made-in-China is driving home a new economic reality for businesses that until recently were struggling to keep up with soaring exports.

China's economy is still growing at an enviable rate: It expanded 9 percent in the quarter through September. But that was the slowest in 5 years and down from 11.9 percent last year. Forecasts for next year range as low as 7.5 percent.

"The Golden Years have shuddered to a dramatic halt and much tougher times are upon us," Stephen Green, economist at Standard Chartered Bank in Shanghai says, pointing to slowing exports and investment.

■■■

BEIJING (AP)—Investors welcomed China's multibillion dollar stimulus package but analysts said Monday that Beijing must ensure companies get access to more credit to sustain its effectiveness.

Stock markets in Japan, Hong Kong and mainland China soared following Sunday's announcement of the 4 trillion yuan, or $586 billion, package as China joined moves by governments around the world to cushion the blow of the global slowdown.

The package calls for higher government spending on roads, airports and other infrastructure and bigger subsidies to the poor and farmers. It promises more lending for rural projects, smaller companies and consumers but gives no details.

■■■

The suddenness and severity of the chill from the global slowdown prompted leaders to announce late Sunday a $586 billion economic stimulus package aimed at boosting growth in China's own markets.

"This broad-based fiscal stimulus program will emerge as the government's front line of defense against an excessive economic slowdown," Jing Ulrich, J.P. Morgan & Co.'s chairwoman for China, said in a note to clients.

But it's unclear whether the package will be enough to salvage exporters left high and dry by overseas customers who are either canceling or abandoning orders as they face what might be one of the bleakest Christmas shopping seasons in decades.

AP

In this Feb. 16, 2008 file photo provided by China's Xinhua News Agency, workers prepare for construction of a new project Shanghai Center at the building site in Pudong District of Shanghai, east China.

For apparel maker Yiwu Bangjie, the first sign of trouble came with the failure of a longtime American customer to pick up and pay for its latest shipment of seamless underwear, says Tao Jianwei, the company's general manager.

"After the shipment arrived at the U.S. port, when we notified our customer to take delivery and finish paying, their reply was that they had no money to pay for the goods," said Tao, whose company is based in eastern China's Zhejiang province.

Yiwu Bangjie is one of the luckier casualties of the slowdown. Tao, who would not identify his U.S. customer, said he expects to get 90 percent of the $100,000 due back through export credit insurance.

"We're lucky to have that insurance," he said. "Everyone knows the global economy is headed for recession, so it's best to be cautious."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AIG reportedly near deal on new government bailout

NEW YORK (AP)—American International Group Inc. late Sunday was reportedly near a deal for a revised bailout package from the U.S. government that would make borrowing terms easier for the troubled insurer. A proposed $123 billion bailout package would be replaced with a new $150 billion package, according to the Wall Street Journal. Details of the arrangement could be announced as early as Monday, when AIG is scheduled to report its third-quarter results, the Journal said. The plan reportedly would replace an $85 billion two-year loan with a $60 billion five-year loan at a lower interest rate. The government also reportedly would inject $40 billion into AIG in exchange for preferred stock. AIG representatives were not immediately available for comment.

Oil jumps to near $64 on higher Asian stocks

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices jumped to near $64 a barrel Monday in Asia as regional stock markets rallied on a massive Chinese economic stimulus plan, which could underpin demand for crude. Light, sweet crude for November delivery was up $2.87 to $63.91 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract Friday rose 27 cents to settle at $61.04. China's $586 billion stimulus package announced Sunday helped lift Asian stock markets Monday. Shanghai Composite Index surged 5 percent, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose 4.9 percent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 3.2 percent. Oil traders have been looking to equity markets for signs of how severe the current global economic slowdown will be. Crude oil prices were also bolstered by a falling dollar. Investors often use commodities such as oil as a hedge against inflation and a weaker dollar.

NRG rejects Exelon's $6.1B buyout offer

PHOENIX (AP)—Power generator NRG Energy Inc. on Sunday rejected an unsolicited $6.1 billion all-stock bid from nuclear power giant and utility operator Exelon Corp., calling the offer that would create the nation's largest power company too low. Princeton, N.J.-based NRG Energy said it also rejected the proposal because Exelon has yet to line up the financing for the deal. Chicago-based Exelon made the offer last month. It has said the combined Exelon and NRG would be big enough to power nearly 45 million homes with 47,000 megawatts. It would have a diverse power mix and a market capitalization of $40 billion. "We could not be more certain in our belief that your proposal is opportunistic, serving only as a means for Exelon to extract a severely disproportionate percentage of the current and future value of NRG and its assets from its rightful owners, NRG's shareholders, and transfer it to Exelon and its shareholders," NRG President and Chief Executive David Crane and board Chairman Howard Cosgrove wrote in a letter to Exelon Chairman and Chief Executive John Rowe.

Asian stock markets gain on China stimulus plan

HONG KONG (AP)—Asian stock markets gained strongly Monday as investors cheered China's $586 billion stimulus plan aimed at countering the effects of a global slowdown on its economy.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 stock average surged 498.43 points, or 5.8 percent, to 9,081.43, buoyed also by a weakening yen. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index gained 483.16 points, or 3.39 percent, to 14,726.59, though traded well off its highs.

In mainland China, where the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index has fallen by more than two-thirds since peaking last October, the index soared 5.6 percent to 1,845. Markets in Australia and South Korea joined the region's advance.

On Sunday, China announced a massive stimulus package in hopes of keeping economic growth from falling too fast. Demand from the U.S. and the country's other vital export markets has been waning as the global financial crisis takes an economic toll.

China's economic growth slowed to 9 percent in the third quarter, the lowest level in five years and a sharp decline from 11.9 percent the year before—perilously low for a government that needs to create jobs for millions of new workers and for other Asian countries that have come to depend heavily on Chinese demand.

"The global economy is in trouble and Chinese authorities understand that they can't wait anymore ... They're aware that exports next year will be terrible given the weakening economies in the U.S. and Europe," said Winson Fong, a Hong Kong-based managing director at SG Asset Management, which oversees about $3 billion in equities in Asia.

Wall Street turns to consumers to gauge US economy

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street heads into another turbulent week with investors set to pore over a government report on retail sales and earnings from Wal-Mart Stores Inc. to get a better reading on the consumer.

There are growing signs that the deepening economic slowdown has caused Americans to tighten their purse strings. There was fresh evidence of this past week when retailers posted the worst October same-store sales in 35 years—and analysts believe the upcoming holiday shopping season could be among the slowest in decades.

With consumer spending driving more than two-thirds of the U.S. economy, investors will be paying close attention to earnings outlooks for some of the nation's biggest retailers. Wal-Mart, the nation's biggest retail chain, will post results on Thursday. Kohl's Corp., JCPenney Co., Macy's Inc., and Abercrombie & Fitch Co. are scheduled to release reports as well.

Investors will get an overall picture of consumer spending on Friday when the Commerce Department releases its October retail sales index. The closely watched gauge is expected to show sales dropping 1.2 percent for the month after falling 1.2 percent in September. Excluding the battered automobile industry, sales are expected to have fallen 0.9 percent.

The market, still trying to recover from October's devastating losses, will likely zigzag as investors react to these reports. This has been the pattern during the past few weeks, with major indexes swinging from one extreme to another in capricious trading.

Many analysts believe this volatility is part of a bottoming-out process. The real test is to see in the coming days if investors have already priced in the potential for negative news or if fear of a protracted recession will trigger another stream of selling.

Fitch lowers credit outlook on emerging economies

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Fitch Ratings on Monday lowered the sovereign credit rating outlooks for six emerging market economies to reflect possible increased burdens stemming from the global credit crisis and slowing economy.

The long-term foreign currency ratings outlooks for South Korea, Mexico, Russia and South Africa, were revised down to "negative" from "stable," Fitch said in a release. Outlooks on Chile and Malaysia, meanwhile were downgraded to "stable" from "positive."

"The profound shift in the global economic and financial outlook pose significant real economy and policy challenges for emerging markets," David Riley, head of Fitch's Global Sovereign Ratings Group, said in a statement.

Riley said that policymakers in emerging economies have less room for mistakes than their counterparts in advanced countries, though are in a better position to deal with the current challenges than at any time in the past.

"Nonetheless, the risks of economic and financial stress that could undermine sovereign creditworthiness have risen and that is reflected in the prospective ratings actions taken today," he said.

Fitch said the action followed a global review of the ratings of 17 major emerging market economies carried out "in response to the profound deterioration in the global economic and financial outlook."

Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Hungary and Romania had their credit ratings downgraded by Fitch.

Brazil, China, India, Peru, Poland, Taiwan and Thailand all had their ratings affirmed by Fitch.

The agency said that contagion from the global financial crisis in advanced economies "triggered extreme volatility in emerging market asset prices" and caused "liquidity strains."

Nation

ELECTIONS BRIEFS

Churches across America reflect on Obama election

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Jubilation, pride and relief permeated pews and pulpits at predominantly black churches across the country on the first Sunday after Barack Obama's election, with congregrants blowing horns, waving American flags and raising their hands to the heavens. "God has vindicated the black folk," the Rev. Shirley Caesar-Williams said as a member of her Raleigh congregation, Mount Calvary Word of Faith Church, brandished a flag and another marched among the pews blowing a ram's horn. "Too long we've been at the bottom of the totem pole, but he has vindicated us, hallelujah," the Grammy-winning gospel singer cried. "I don't know about you, but I don't have nothing to put my head down for, praise God. Because when I look toward Washington, D.C., we got a new family coming in. We got a new family coming in. And you know what? They look like us. Amen, amen. They look like us."

GOP a dying breed in New England

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A generation ago the Republican Party was the dominant political force in New England, populating the region's congressional delegations with moderates like Connecticut's Lowell P. Weicker Jr. and Rhode Island's John Chafee. But today's GOP, led by a more socially conservative wing of the party, is finding votes harder to come by. Voters on Tuesday cast out Connecticut's veteran Rep. Chris Shays, the last New England Republican in the U.S. House of Representatives. Sen. John Sununu was voted out in New Hampshire, leaving that state's Judd Gregg and Maine's Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe as the only Republicans among the region's 12 senators. Shays' loss to former Goldman Sachs executive Jim Himes marks the first time since 1969 that southwestern Connecticut will be represented by a Democrat in the House. "I felt that we were going to win this, I really did," Shays told supporters. "I felt that people were so good to me, they were so nice to me. But they were deciding they were going to go the other way." New England's decision to "go the other way" in recent elections is a dramatic transformation for a region considered a Republican stronghold a generation ago.

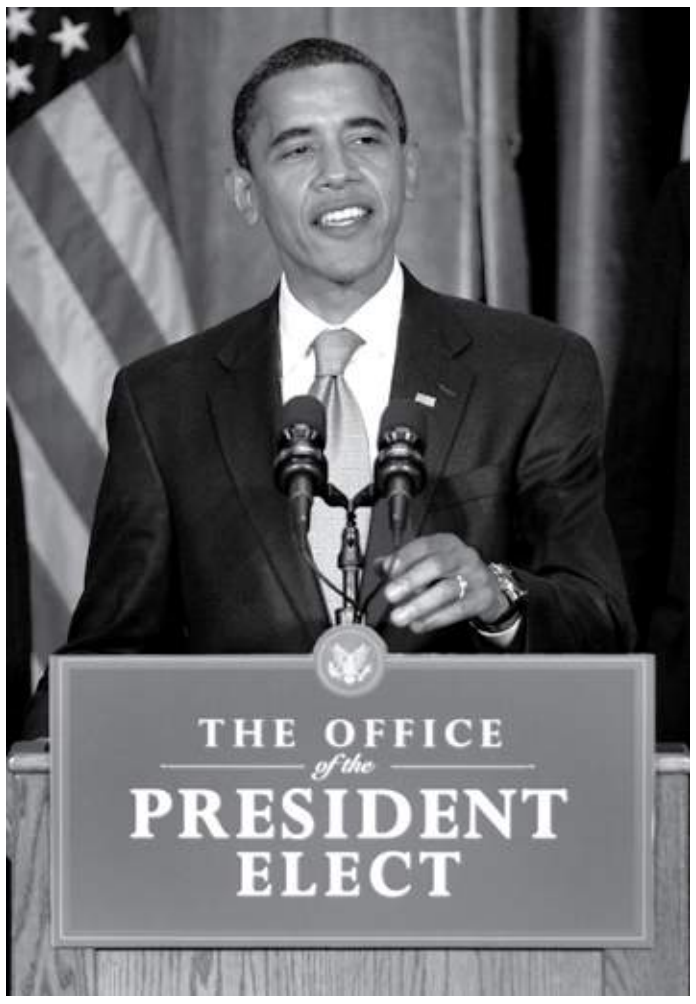
Obama to use executive orders for immediate impact

WASHINGTON (AP)—President-elect Obama plans to use his executive powers to make an immediate impact when he takes office, perhaps reversing Bush administration policies on stem cell research and domestic drilling for oil and natural gas.

John Podesta, Obama's transition chief, said Sunday Obama is reviewing President Bush's executive orders on those issues and others as he works to undo policies enacted during eight years of Republican rule. He said the president can use such orders to move quickly on his own.

"There's a lot that the president can do using his executive authority without waiting for congressional action, and I think we'll see the president do that," Podesta said. "I think that he feels like he has a real mandate for change. We need to get off the course that the Bush administration has set."

Podesta also said Obama is working to build a diverse Cabinet. That includes reaching out to Republicans and independents—part of the broad coalition that supported Obama during the race against Republican John McCain. Defense Secretary Robert Gates has been mentioned as a possible holdover.



AP

President-elect Obama makes an opening statement during a press conference in Chicago, Friday, Nov. 7, 2008.

"He's not even a Republican," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada said. "Why wouldn't we want to keep him? He's never been a registered Republican."

Obama was elected on a promise of change, but the nature of the job makes it difficult for presidents to do much that has an immediate impact on the lives of average people. Congress plans to take up a second economic aid plan before year's end—an effort Obama supports. But it could be months or longer before taxpayers see the effect.

Obama could use his executive powers to at least signal that Washington is changing.

"Obama's advantage of course is he'll have the House and the Senate working with him, and that makes it easier," said Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond. "But even then, having an immediate impact is very difficult to do because the machinery of government doesn't move that quickly."

Presidents long have used executive orders to impose policy and set priorities. One of Bush's first acts was to reinstate full abortion restrictions on U.S. overseas aid. The restrictions were first ordered by President Reagan and the first President Bush followed suit. President Clinton lifted them soon after he occupied the Oval Office and it wouldn't be surprising if Obama did the same.

Executive orders "have the power of law and they can cover just about anything," Tobias said in a telephone interview.

Bush used his executive power to limit federal spending on embryonic stem cell research, a position championed by opponents of abortion rights who argue that destroying embryos is akin to killing a fetus. Obama has supported the research in an effort to find cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's. Many moderate Republicans also support the research, giving it the stamp of bipartisanship.

On drilling, the federal Bureau of Land Management is opening about 360,000 acres of public land in Utah to oil and gas drilling. Bush administration officials argue that the drilling will not harm sensitive areas; environmentalists oppose it.

Farrakhan says Obama draws a 'oneness of spirit'

CHICAGO (AP)—After months of silence about his support for Barack Obama, Nation of Islam Minister Louis Farrakhan said in an address Sunday that the new president-elect has a God-given capacity to handle any burdens he'll face as the nation's leader.

Farrakhan added that Obama will be able to make positive changes only with help from "God and people of goodwill," and he urged followers of the Chicago-based black nationalist movement to do their part.

"President-elect Obama has energized all segments of the depressed, downtrodden, rejected and despised," he said in a 90-minute speech at Mosque Maryam on the city's South Side. "Now it is up to us to take the new energy that he has given us ... and channel that energy into making ourselves better."

Dressed in intricately decorated red and gold robes and a matching fez, the once-ailing 75-year-old leader spoke to more than 1,000 followers in an address called "America's New Beginning: President-elect Barack Obama."

Farrakhan, who said Obama draws a "oneness of spirit" from all people, admitted he stayed quiet about his support for Obama during the past few months out of fear his words would harm the Illinois senator's bid for the White House.

In February, Farrakhan praised Obama, calling him "the hope of the entire world that America will change and be made better" at a Saviours' Day event in Chicago.

But Obama quickly distanced himself from Farrakhan, denouncing the minister's support during a presidential debate with then-Democratic rival Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton. Obama said he objected to Farrakhan's past statements about Judaism, which many have considered anti-Semitic. Nation of Islam officials have said Farrakhan's comments are often taken out of context.

On Sunday, Farrakhan said Obama faced unfair scrutiny for his associations with the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, Obama's former pastor, who was shown making fiery statements about the U.S. government in widely circulated video clips. Obama was also criticized because of the Rev. Michael Pfleger, a Chicago priest who mocked Clinton at Wright and Obama's former church, Trinity United Church of Christ.

Ariz. town offers support for accused boy's family

ST. JOHNS, Ariz. (AP)—People in this small, tight-knit community are reeling from the killing of a well-liked man police say was shot by his own 8-year-old son, and they will likely turn out in droves for his funeral.

"I don't think this church is big enough to handle it all," said the Very Rev. John Paul Sauter of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

Vincent Romero, 29, and Timothy Romans, 39, a coworker who also rented a room from him, were found dead inside Romero's home—one at the entrance and one in an upstairs room. Police charged Romero's son with two counts of premeditated murder.

"The recent tragedy in our community has been very sad, an incident that makes us ask 'Why?' yet pulls our citizens together with love and support," said Ross Overson, mayor of the town in eastern Arizona. "Without exception, the entire community has been affected by this tragic loss. No community can begin to understand how something like this could happen."

Ask anyone here, and chances are they know a member of the Romero family.

"Everybody knows them because there's like 100 of them," said Marybeth Ellsworth, who played the piano at Romero's wedding in September. "They're very well-liked in the community."

A prayer service was scheduled Sunday for Romero, and his funeral Mass was set for Monday at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

Resident Flynt Smith said Romero and Romans were "the best neighbors we've ever had." They helped out when he was installing sprinklers in his yard and when his roof needed repairs, he said.

Such relationships are common in St. Johns, a town of about 4,000 people 170 miles northeast of Phoenix, helping draw new people to the community and ensuring that those who were born there stick around as longtime residents, said Smith's wife, Amber.

"I feel you help each other raise each other's children, and you don't see that anymore," she said.

Chelsie Jaramillo, who moved into the house across the street from Vincent Romero just two weeks ago with her husband and two children, said Romero's wife, Tiffany, welcomed her and told her to holler if she ever needed anything.

"They were really nice," said Jaramillo, 19.

At St. John the Baptist, Romero sang in the choir and his wife had also signed up. The couple spent two years preparing for marriage, and when they tied the knot in September the "church was packed," Sauter said.

Protests sweep across Calif. on post-Prop 8

LOS ANGELES (AP)—On the first Sunday after a gay marriage ban passed in California, activists rallied in defiance, including hundreds of protesters outside an Orange County megachurch whose pastor brought Barack Obama and John McCain together last summer for a "faith forum."

About 300 gay-rights advocates fanned out along sidewalks leading to Saddleback Church in Lake Forest to voice their anger of the church's support of Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment approved by voters Tuesday that overturns a state Supreme Court decision in May legalizing same-sex unions.

Ed Todeschini, a Human Rights Campaign volunteer, accused Saddleback in particular of helping propagate what he called misinformation about the Supreme Court ruling, including that gay marriage would have to be taught to kindergartners.

A message seeking comment left at the church's main office, which was closed Sunday, was not immediately returned.

"They told such obvious lies. They used their lies to deceive the public," Todeschini said of the church, which gained national attention in August when its pastor, Rick Warren, brought Obama and McCain together to discuss their religious faith. The two candidates embraced during an often-contentious presidential campaign.

Todeschini said Sunday's rally was peaceful, with demonstrators waving placards with slogans including "Equality for all" and "Shame on you."

The amendment was passed last week with 52 percent of the vote, and backlash at churches over their support swept across California on Sunday after days of protests.

Asia

Indonesia boosts security after Bali executions

TENGGULUN, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia boosted security Sunday after three Islamic militants were executed for the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people. Emotional supporters thronged ambulances carrying their caskets through narrow streets, some calling for revenge.

Several embassies, including those of the U.S. and Australia, urged citizens to keep a low profile, saying they could be targeted.

Imam Samudra, 38, and brothers Amrozi Nurhasyim, 47, and Ali Ghufron, 48, were brought before a firing squad near their high-security prison on Nusakambangan island in the middle of the night Sunday, said Jasman Panjaitan, a spokesman for the attorney general's office.

They refused blindfolds and died instantly, he said.

The Oct. 12, 2002 attacks—allegedly funded by al-Qaida and carried out by members of the Southeast Asian militant group Jemaah Islamiyah—were the first of several suicide bombings in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Many of those killed were Western tourists, who packed into two nightclubs on the popular resort island on the busiest night of the week. Seven of the dead were American.

The three militants confessed to helping plan and carry out the attacks but were without remorse, saying they were meant to punish the U.S. and its Western allies for wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Nurhasyim, ever gloating, came to be known as the "smiling bomber."

The executions ended years of uncertainty about the men's fate.

Their lawyers launched several unsuccessful legal challenges that kept them in the media spotlight, frustrating relatives of victims and enabling the militants to rally supporters even while behind bars. They repeatedly demanded retaliation if their executions went forward.

Most in the nation of 235 million are moderate Muslims who have little sympathy for the bombers, but the men have strong support among an increasingly vocal radical fringe.

Thousands of supporters and onlookers lined streets in their home towns of Tenggulun and Serang, located in east and west Java. Some jostled for a glimpse of their caskets or headed to the cemetery with family members for the burials.

AP

Supporters of Bali bombers Amrozi Nurhasyim and Ali Ghufron scuffle with riot police during their funeral in Lamongan, East Java, Indonesia, Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008.

Abducted Canadian reporter describes 4-week ordeal

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Mellissa Fung says captors kept her blindfolded for four weeks in an underground cave so low the Canadian journalist could barely stand. Chains bound her hands and feet during her last week as a prisoner.

Afghan tribal elders and government officials won her safe release late Saturday, 28 days after she was taken from a refugee camp in Kabul while conducting interviews for the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

In a video released Sunday, Fung was seen meeting with Afghanistan's intelligence chief and Canada's ambassador. Fung insisted she was fine, but apologized for the situation, despite the fact the refugee camp where she conducted interviews had been visited by many journalists previously and was considered safe to visit.

"I'm sorry for all the trouble," Fung said.

A Canadian official sitting nearby responded: "We're just glad you're here." Fung replied: "Yeah, so am I."

In the videotape, taken by Afghan intelligence agents and released Sunday, Fung tells Canada's ambassador that she is not hurt and that she hopes people won't make "a big fuss" over her situation.

"I'm fine, really, I'm fine," she said.

When the ambassador greeted her with a hug, Fung said: "I'm not smelling great." She later said she hoped to take a shower.

Fung was held captive for a month in a dangerous region of Wardak province overrun by Taliban militants—one province west of Kabul. No officials would say whether Fung was held by the Taliban or a criminal gang, but given the location, Taliban involvement seemed likely.

Crimes against Westerners have spiked in Kabul in recent weeks. An aid worker with dual South African-British citizenship was killed by Taliban gunmen in a Kabul neighborhood last month, and a French aid worker was kidnapped at gunpoint in Kabul on Nov. 3.

AP

In this picture released by National Directorate of Security (NDS), Mellissa Fung, left, a Canadian reporter, speaks on the phone as NDS chief Amrullah Saleh look on at his office in Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday, Nov 8, 2008.

Chinese cancel Taiwan trips after violent protests

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—At least two groups of Chinese officials have canceled plans to visit Taiwan because of violent protests against a Chinese envoy when he visited the island last week, a Taiwanese official said Monday.

The Chinese called off the trips after protesters clashed with police during the bridge-building trip by envoy Chen Yunlin, ruling Nationalist Party spokeswoman Chen Chu-jung said, though she declined to identify which delegations had canceled.

"They may not have acted on government orders, but were concerned about their own safety," she said.

Taiwanese media have said Chongqing Deputy Mayor Huang Qifan canceled a planned visit to Taipei this week, though it was not clear if this was one of the trips that the spokeswoman was referring to.

While in Taiwan, the Chinese envoy signed several deals to expand transport links with the island.

Taiwan's pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, which fears closer economic ties with the mainland pave the way for a political union, organized a series of demonstrations during the Nov. 3-7 trip.

At one point, protesters threw stones and other objects at police. At another time, they surrounded a hotel where the Chinese envoy was having dinner, preventing him from leaving until after midnight.

China claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has said any moves to formalize the island's de facto independence would be met with war. The sides split amid civil war in 1949.

Sri Lankan rebels reportedly want cease-fire

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Tamil Tiger rebels are ready to consider a cease-fire with government forces who have boosted offensives in a bid to crush the militants' separatist campaign, a rebel leader was quoted as saying Sunday on a pro-rebel Web site.

Balasingham Nadesan, the head of the rebels' political wing, said the militants are fighting a defensive war forced upon them by the government.

"There is no hesitation on our side to reiterate our position that we have always wanted a cease-fire," Nadesan was quoted as saying.

Government officials could not be immediately contacted for comment. However, President Mahinda Rajapaksa in his speech to Parliament last week warned that the rebels would be destroyed unless they lay down their arms and surrender.

The government earlier this year officially withdrew from a Norway-brokered cease-fire with the rebels. However, both sides had been openly violating the pact, and accused each other of provocation.

In the latest violence Sunday, air force fighter jets hit a rebel artillery gun position and a command center in the guerrillas' northern stronghold of Kilinochchi, said air force spokesman Wing Commander Janaka Nanayakkara.

He said the pilots had confirmed they hit their targets, but damage and casualty details were not immediately available.

It was not possible to contact rebel officials for comment because most communication lines to guerrilla-held areas have been severed. Independent accounts are difficult to obtain from the battlefield because most journalists are barred from the war zone.

ASIAN BRIEFS

USGS: 6.5-magnitude quake strikes northwest China

BEIJING (AP)—A strong 6.5 magnitude earthquake struck remote northwestern China on Monday, the U.S. Geological Survey said. There were no immediate reports of casualties. The quake struck the Qinghai province at a depth of 6.2 miles on Monday morning, the agency said. The USGS said the quake's epicenter was located 1,120 miles west of Beijing. China's Earthquake Administration confirmed the earthquake, but said it had a magnitude of 6.3 on its scale. The USGS said the quake's epicenter was 35 miles east of Da Qaidam district, in northern Qinghai. The population of the county seat, Da Qaidam town, is about 15,000 people. An official at the Da Qaidam administrative committee said authorities have sent 180 people to investigate but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Two Spanish soldiers die in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two Spanish soldiers died when a suicide bomber drove into a convoy in western Afghanistan on Sunday, while U.S. coalition forces separately killed 14 militants who fired on them, officials said. The suicide bomber attacked the troops in the western province of Herat, which generally experiences much less violence than southern and eastern provinces. Carmen Chacon of the Spanish Defense Ministry said six Spanish armored military vehicles were escorting 12 Afghan army trucks when the suicide bomber rammed his truck into the last vehicle in the convoy. Two Spanish soldiers were killed and four were wounded, she said. More U.S. and NATO troops have died in Afghanistan this year than in any other year since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion. Militant attacks have become increasingly sophisticated and powerful.

3 men found dead in Philippine gold mine

ITOGON, Philippines (AP)—Three gold miners were found dead in an underground tunnel in the mountainous northern Philippines on Sunday after they apparently ran out of oxygen, officials said. Rescuers retrieved the bodies of the three men from the mine shaft in Loacan village in Itogon township which the miners entered Saturday, Itogon councilor Alexander Fianza said. The miners may have dug a hole to gain entry into an abandoned gold-mining complex. When their oxygen supply ran out, they may have inhaled toxic gases that knocked them unconscious until they died, said Neoman dela Cruz, regional director of the government's Mines and Geosciences Bureau. The accident happened near another abandoned underground gold-mining complex, also in Itogon, where six small-scale miners died and 10 others were pulled out alive after they were trapped in flooded tunnels for several days during a typhoon in September.

World

Accident on Russian nuclear sub suffocates 20

MOSCOW (AP)—The fire safety system on a brand-new Russian nuclear submarine accidentally turned on as the sub was being tested in the Sea of Japan, spewing a gas that suffocated 20 people and sent 21 others to the hospital, officials said Sunday.

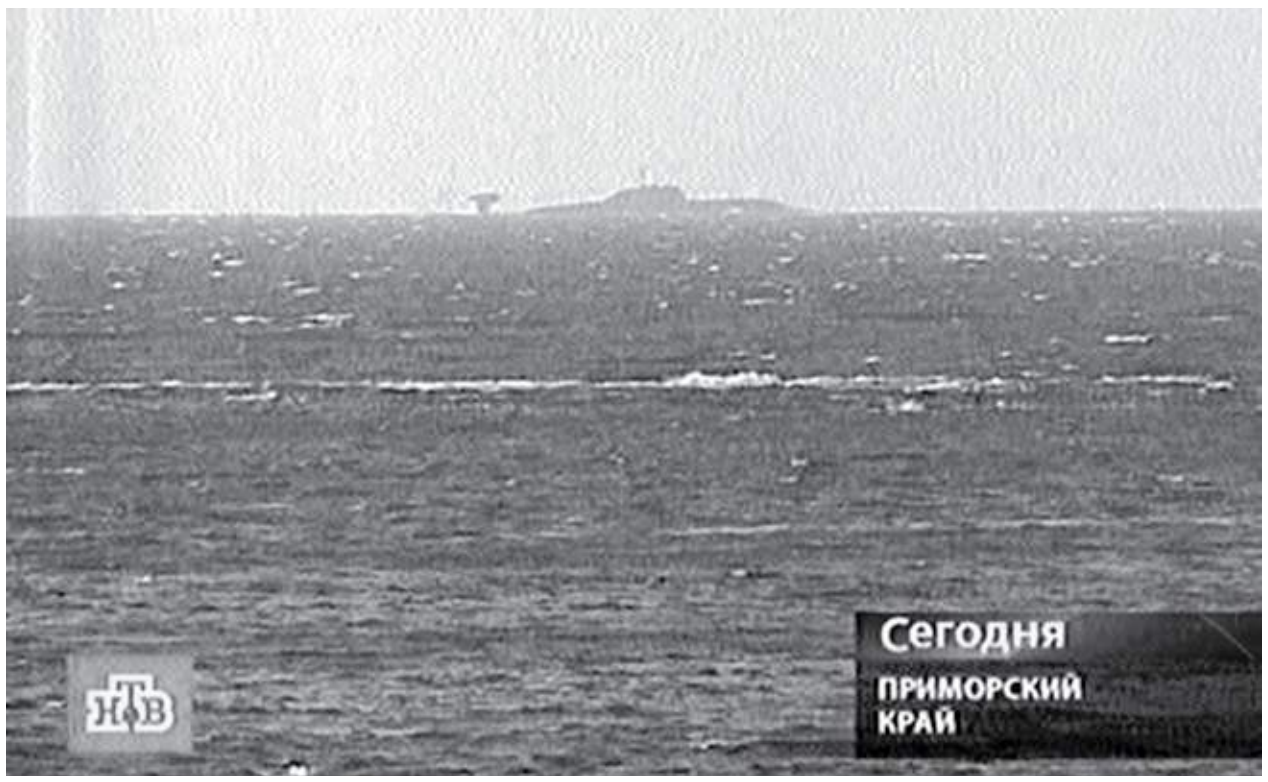
The Russian Navy said the submarine itself was not damaged in Saturday's accident and returned to its base on Russia's Pacific coast under its own power Sunday. The accident also did not pose any radiation danger, the navy said.

Yet it was Russia's worst naval accident since torpedo explosions sank another nuclear-powered submarine, the Kursk, in the Barents Sea in 2000, killing all 118 seamen aboard.

Overcrowding may have been a significant factor on Saturday.

The submarine being tested had 208 people aboard, including 81 seamen, according to Russian navy spokesman Capt. Igor Dygalo. Yet Russian news agencies said a sub of this type normally carries only a crew of 73.

"A submarine is the most vulnerable during trials. With both navy and civilian personnel on board, it's very dificult to keep such a large number of people organized," Gennady Illarionov, a retired submarine officer, told the RIA Novosti news agency.



AP

The Nerpa (Seal), one of Russia's Shchuka (Pike) class (NATO reporting name: Akula) nuclear submarines, where at least 20 people were killed in an accident, seen heading to a Russia's Pacific Fleet base, about 6,400 km (4,000 miles) east of Moscow, shortly after the accident in this image made from television Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008.

The victims suffocated after the submarine's fire-extinguishing system released Freon gas, said Vladimir Markin, an official with Russia's top investigative agency. He said forensic tests found Freon in the victims' lungs.

Seventeen civilians and three seamen died in the accident and 21 others were hospitalized after being evacuated to shore, Dygalo said, adding that none of the injuries were life-threatening.

"The submarine's nuclear reactor was operating normally and radiation levels were normal," Dygalo said, explaining that the accident affected two sections of the submarine closest to the bow.

Markin's agency, the Investigative Committee under the Prosecutor General's office, has launched a probe into the accident, which he said will focus on what activated the firefighting system and possible violations of submarine operating rules.

Lev Fyodorov, a top Russian chemical expert, agreed that the Freon pushed oxygen out, causing those inside to die of suffocation. But he wondered why the individual breathing kits that everyone on board is supposed to have did not keep people from dying.

"People on board the sub may have failed to use their breathing equipment when they found themselves in an emergency," he told the AP.

Igor Kurdin, a retired navy officer who heads an association of former submariners, told Ekho Moskvy radio that the high death toll probably resulted from shipyard workers who lacked experience in dealing with the breathing kits.

A siren warning the crew that the firefighting system was turning on also may have failed, RIA Novosti quoted an unidentified navy official as saying, so those on board might not have realized that Freon was being released until it was too late.

2 bombs kill 22, wound 42 in northern Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber struck Monday in a crowd gathered at the site of an explosion that had gone off moments earlier, killing 22 people and wounded 42 others, police said.

The twin blasts occurred during the morning rush hour in the Kasrah section of Azamiyah neighborhood in the northern part of Baghdad.

Police said the first explosion was in a car. The second happened when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive belt in the middle of a crowd that had gathered around the vehicle.

Police officials giving the toll were unclear how many died in each blast and gave only an overall total.

Some police put the death toll at 25 with 45 wounded. Police officials who gave the toll spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not supposed to release the information.

No group claimed responsibility for the blasts, the single deadliest attack in the Iraqi capital in weeks.

But suicide attacks against Shiite civilians are the hallmark of al-Qaida in Iraq, which maintains a limited presence in Baghdad despite military setbacks and the Sunni revolt against the terror movement last year.

Colombian president says Mexico will win drug war

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP)—Colombian president Alvaro Uribe predicted that Mexican counterpart Felipe Calderon's controversial efforts to combat the increasingly violent drug war that is wracking his nation would be successful.

"When you live in a country like Colombia that has already faced that intense fight against crime, one is very happy to see efforts like those of President Calderon," Uribe told business leaders in Monterrey on Sunday night.

Calderon has been criticized for deploying federal troops to the streets to combat violent turf wars between rival drug cartels. The savage battles have left hundreds of people dead and often decapitated across northern and western Mexico. The carnage among police is particularly high, leaving many officers fearful or susceptible to corruption.

Organized crime has become "a profound crisis that is affecting many Latin American countries and particularly Mexico," said Nuevo Leon state governor Jose Natividad Gonzalez. "It's affecting governability."

Uribe emphasized Colombia's own work to slow the flow of drugs and assist U.S. prosecutors, noting that his government had carried out some 900 extradition orders since he took office and has seen crime and kidnappings fall sharply.

Colombia is world's top producer of cocaine, while Mexico has become a major transit point.

Uribe did not say how Mexico would win its drug war, but he and Calderon plan to discuss security issues in Mexico City on Monday.

The business conference Uribe attended in Monterrey will also address energy issues, the significance of growing Asian markets, and U.S. policy under a newly elected President Barack Obama.

Sea census leads to discoveries of marine wonders

WASHINGTON (AP)—A city of brittle stars off the coast of New Zealand, an Antarctic expressway where octopuses ride along in a flow of extra salty water and a carpet of tiny crustaceans on the Gulf of Mexico sea floor are among the wonders discovered by researchers compiling a massive census of marine life.

ON THE NET
Census of Marine Life: http://www.coml.org

"We are still making discoveries," but researchers also are busy assembling data already collected into the big picture of life in the oceans, senior scientist Ron O'Dor said.

The fourth update of the census was released Sunday ahead of a meeting of hundreds of researchers that begins Tuesday in Valencia, Spain. More than 2,000 scientists from 82 nations are taking part in the project, which is to be completed in 2010.

A discovery that delights O'Dor is that many deep-ocean octopuses share an Antarctic origin. As the Antarctic got colder, ice increased and octopuses were forced into deeper water, he said in a telephone interview.

WORLD BRIEFS

Paloma weakens quickly after slamming Cuba's coast

CAMAGUEY, Cuba (AP)—Hurricane Paloma leveled hundreds of homes along Cuba's southern coast before rapidly losing steam over land Sunday, weakening from a dangerous Category 4 storm into a tropical depression in less than a day. Crashing surf and a powerful sea surge sent waves almost a mile (1 1/2 kilometers) inland as the storm ravaged Santa Cruz del Sur, the coastal community where it roared ashore Saturday night. Javier Ramos said he rebuilt his simple wood-frame house in Santa Cruz del Sur after Hurricane Ike struck in early September, only to watch Paloma flatten it again. "At least we're alive, but my wife hasn't seen this yet," Ramos told The Associated Press as he scavenged bits of clothing and smashed dishes in his front yard. "I don't know how she's going to react. It's going to be terrible." More than 10-foot-high (3-meter-high) waves washed away nearly all traces of about 50 modest houses in Santa Cruz del Sur. Civil Defense authorities said altogether 435 homes in the community were destroyed.

Nicaraguan municipal vote seen as test for Ortega

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—Voters in Nicaragua's capital chose between a former world boxing champion and a Harvard-educated ex-finance minister Sunday in a mayoral election considered a referendum on leftist President Daniel Ortega. The race for mayor of Managua was the most closely watched of 146 municipal elections across the country. Voting was mostly peaceful, ending a campaign season that had been marred by sporadic violence. Ortega's administration has come under fire for barring two opposition parties from fielding mayoral candidates and for police raids against non-governmental organizations critical of his government. The nationwide balloting is Ortega's first major electoral test since he won the presidency in 2006, returning to power nearly two decades after leading a Marxist government that fought U.S.-backed Contra rebels. Ortega has since been a regular critic of U.S. foreign policy and built strong ties with Venezuela, Russia and Iran.

Neighbors urge Zimbabwe to form unity government

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—African leaders urged Zimbabwe's rival political factions to share control of the police ministry in an effort to form a unity government, but President Robert Mugabe's main opponent early Monday rejected the proposal. Leaders at the regional summit in Johannesburg also discussed the crisis in Congo, calling a rebel leader who has stepped up his fight against the government in recent weeks intransigent and raising the possibility of sending peacekeepers. The proposal on Zimbabwe emerged from nearly 12-hour summit called to push Mugabe, opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai and Arthur Mutambara, head of a smaller opposition group, into the unity government they agreed to form more than a month ago. Without a government, and without a breakthrough at the summit, Zimbabwe is without leaders to resolve a spiraling economic crisis. Tsvangirai told reporters that his party disagreed "totally" with the recommendation from the Southern African Development Community summit that both he and Mugabe name ministers in charge of police and other functions of the Home Affairs Ministry.

Overdrive

2009 SUBARU OUTBACK 2.5I LIMITED WAGON

Self-assured agility

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

CORNWALL, N.Y.—Schunemunk Mountain looms high in the autumn sky in bright orange, red and yellow. It is a splendid sight, well worth the 300-mile trip here from my home in Virginia, where similar natural beauty abounds.

Staying home was an option. But I enjoy driving. Coming here to a daughter's home in the shadow of the Schunemunk was reason enough to hit the road. The 2009 Subaru Outback 2.5i Limited wagon available for the drive was an added attraction.

The new Outback is much changed from the predecessor model that began life in the United States in 1995 as a jacked-up, duded-up Subaru Legacy L wagon. It still shares Legacy structure and components. But through the twin magic of computer-assisted design and engineering, it has shed the truck-like pretensions of that earlier model without losing any of Subaru's famed all-wheel-drive agility.

The new Outback, instead, is a mid-size family wagon perfectly happy in its own skin. It seats five people comfortably. It offers reasonable onboard utility. With the standard 2.5-liter, 170-horsepower, flat four-cylinder engine in the model driven for this column, it gets about 20 miles per gallon in the city and up to 31 miles per gallon on the highway—when driven at posted speed limits.

It is a wonderfully odd piece of work.

You'd think that a wagon with a ground clearance of 8.4 inches, which is the case here, would be clumsy, tipsy—reluctantly responsive to emergency steering maneuvers. But the Outback is remarkably responsive to the slightest steering input, accurate in compliance with steering demands. That can prove useful on long drives, as discovered by Ria Manglapus, my associate in vehicle evaluations.

There is a new law in place in Virginia and other jurisdictions designed to protect the lives of law enforcement officers making traffic stops. For example, motorists approaching police vehicles involved in traffic stops on the right side of the road are now obliged to move one lane over to the left. That makes sense. Too many law enforcement officers have been killed or maimed accidentally while standing on the side of the road issuing a summons to errant drivers.

But making that emergency lane change in heavy highway traffic can be a problem in an unresponsive or poorly responsive car or truck. It can even be dangerous.

"You want to get over fast without getting in the way of oncoming traffic," Ria said. You can do that in an Outback while maintaining perfect control of the wagon.

You can also climb steep mountain roads in the rain, thanks to the Outback's symmetrical all-wheel-drive system, which simultaneously transmits drive power to all four wheels. There is both balance and grip in that arrangement—reassuring virtues on high, wet roads that sometimes lack the benefit of guard rails.

Also helpful in the highlands are automatic transmissions that can be shifted manually. The Outback 2.5i Limited comes with a four-speed version—not exactly optimum in a world rapidly moving toward five-, six-, and seven-speed gearboxes. But it works.

In automatic mode, the Outback's four-speed automatic is something of a groaner on high roads, evidencing all of the stress of its limitations. But slapping the transmission lever to the left of the gearbox and operating it manually increases torque and relieves the stress.

Of course, more power is always helpful and often desirable, especially for driving at high altitudes. Subaru offers stronger engines for the Outback—a turbocharged, 243-horsepower version of the 2.5-liter, flat four-cylinder engine; and a 3-liter, 245-horsepower, six-cylinder model.

But life is a matter of choices and trade-offs. The standard four-cylinder engine runs well on regular unleaded gasoline. The turbocharged version requires more expensive premium fuel. And the six-cylinder model drinks more gasoline than I'm willing to pay for.

The 2009 Subaru Outback 2.5i Limited wagon combines a high vanilla exterior with a very classy interior.
THE WASHINGTON POST

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS
Many motorists will find the base four-cylinder engine underpowered for their tastes. But moving up in power here, as it usually does, means moving up in fuel consumption and costs.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
Ride and handling are excellent. With the base four-cylinder engine, acceleration is good in the flatlands, adequate in the highlands.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
High vanilla exterior with a very classy interior.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The Subaru Outback is a front-engine, mid-size, all-wheel-drive family wagon especially designed for use in regions with inclement weather and numerous unimproved roads.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
In the Outback 2.5i Limited, the base 2.5-liter, 16-valve, flat four-cylinder engine develops 170 horsepower at 6,000 revolutions per minute and 170 foot-pounds of torque at 4,400 rpm. The engine is mated to a four-speed transmission that can be shifted automatically or manually.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for five people. Maximum cargo capacity is 65 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 16.9 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
You can get 16 to 24 miles per gallon in the city and 21 to 31 miles per gallon on the highway — depending on speed, load carried, road-surface quality, wind resistance, and general driving habits.

SAFETY
Standard equipment includes symmetrical all-wheel-drive, four-wheel disc brakes with antilock protection, electronic traction and stability control, and side and head air bags.

PRICE
The base price on the 2009 Subaru Outback 2.5i Limited with onboard navigation, as outfitted for this column, is $30,295. Dealer invoice price in base model is $28,275. Price as tested is $31,416, including $456 for satellite radio and a $665 destination charge. Dealer's price as tested is $29,282. Check discounts on this one. Prices are sourced from Subaru, Edmunds.com, and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
The automobile industry in the United States is in a depression. That means it's a buyer's market — almost totally. You can bargain. Compare with Honda CR-V, Toyota Rav4, Nissan Rogue, Volvo XC60.

Auto sales take a dive in October

The last time auto sales were this bad, the U.S. had just gone to war in Iraq—for the first time.

In October, total U.S. automobile sales slumped to 838,156 cars and light trucks, a 32 percent decline from the same month in 2007.

That's the lowest single-month sales figure since January 1991, when Operation Desert Storm began under President George H.W. Bush.

It was the slowest month yet in a year where automakers have been pummeled again and again -- by high gasoline prices, low consumer confidence and frozen credit markets. And as an important indicator of that crucial spot where industry meets consumers' wallets, the results are a fresh reminder of the troubled state of the economy.

General Motors Corp. led the charge to the bottom. The largest U.S. automaker reported a 45 percent decline in sales for the month compared with October 2007, dropping to 166,744 vehicles sold. That's the first time the automaker's monthly sales have fallen below the 200,000 mark since 1975, when nearly 100 million fewer people lived in the U.S.

Ford Motor Co. reported a 29 percent sales decline, while Chrysler was down nearly 35 percent.

Among the imports, Toyota Motor Corp.'s sales were off 23 percent and Honda Motor Co.'s were down 25 percent. Nissan Motor Co. said its sales declined 33 percent, while European automakers combined were down 18 percent. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

CRUISIN'

Packard motor car revival unlikely

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, what happened to the Packard Motor Car Company that was supposed to put out a car in 2006? I loved the beautiful Packard cars from back in the 1940s and '50s.— Galen C., Florida

A: Galen, there was an effort to build an American-based V-12 Packard not too long ago, and the information is still on the Internet at www.packard-motorcar.com.

The man behind the effort was Roy Gullickson, then of Phoenix, Ariz., and now reportedly living in Canada. Gullickson previously worked as a mechanical engineer in charge of development at White Motor Corp., which is now Volvo Trucks.

In 1995, Gullickson purchased the rights to the Packard name, and by 1998 had built a V-12 powered luxury sedan prototype. When financial backers failed to materialize, Gullickson abandoned the project and announced in May 2007 that Packard Motor Car Company was for sale. Assets would include the Packard car name trademark, the Packard V-12 running prototype, engineering data, photo files, spare parts and tooling.

Supposedly, Gullickson was seeking to sell his interest at an asking price of $1.5 million. He even tried to sell the company, or seek investors, on eBay in 2000 through noted classic car auction affiliate Kruse International. The auction drew five bids, the highest a $275,000 late-hour offer, which was well below his secret reserve price.

The Packard brand was active from 1899 through 1958, and sold more cars than Cadillac and Lincoln during 20 of 21 model years from 1925 through 1949.

Although "never say never" may apply here, the likelihood of a new Packard coming to market for purchase is extremely slim. However, I would sure love to see Gullickson's prototype in person.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Life & Style

How to get kids to help around the house

By ANNYS SHIN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

My career as a television remote control began at about age 5, when my parents bought their first color TV. For those of you unfamiliar with this occupation, it is exactly what it sounds like. When my father wanted to watch a different channel, he would say, "Annys, change the channel."

Looking back now, my stint as a channel changer ("Content Manager" on my resume) was more significant than I thought. It influenced my beliefs and my choice of spouse. (Surprise: I picked someone who shares equally in housework.) It also taught me to value children and anything with a remote control.

Now that my daughter, at 20 months, is old enough to do things such as put her shirt in a hamper and wipe a spill—or at least some portion of it—I realize that this is my opportunity to strike. The second her masticated Cheerios hit the floor is a teachable moment, a chance to explain that half-chewed food lives in the trash and not under our feet. By showing her how to clean up after herself, child development experts tell me, I am instilling a sense of accomplishment and helping her master the subtle variation in skill required to scoop up squished cereal as opposed to squished peas.

The problem is: What if I can't and she doesn't? What if I can't teach her and/or she doesn't learn to pick up those peas, ever? Or 10 years from now she decides she is not responsible for any dish or room she did not personally dirty? When she is older, how likely are we to harangue her? Or will we decide we're just wasting our energy on something that she'll figure out how to do eventually?

For starters, children today spend less time on housework than they did 20 years ago, according to Sandra Hofferth, director of the University of Maryland's Population Research Center, who has been studying how children spend their time using detailed diaries.

In 1981, children ages 9 through 12 reported spending 5 hours 18 minutes a week on such activities as repairs, meal preparation and cleanup, pet care and outdoor work. By 2002, that figure shrank to 3 hours 5 minutes.

So what happened? The short answer is everyone is doing less housework. Hofferth broke it down like this: More women are employed outside the home. Children, as a result, are spending more time at school, in child care or in structured activities such as soccer practice or tuba lessons, Hofferth said. Mom and Dad are also more likely to outsource certain domestic tasks, such as cleaning the bathroom or mowing the lawn, because they don't have the time or inclination to do them.

"Cleaning toilets ... I don't think any of us wants to do that," said Bill Breskin, who lives in Vienna, Va., with his wife and two daughters. They pay a housecleaner to come twice a month, and they use a lawn service during the summer.

Another incentive for parents to outsource is not wanting to "spend their scarce time with children yelling at them or further harassing them about finishing household chores," Hofferth said.

Children today spend less time on housework than they did 20 years ago, according to Sandra Hofferth, director of the University of Maryland's Population Research Center, who has been studying how children spend their time using detailed diaries.

Hiring Merry Maids and eating takeout, though, still leave plenty to do around the house. There are always toys to pick up, clothes to put away and dogs to walk. That brings us to the issue of motivation.

Starting Young

Any parent drawing up his first chore wheel has to start with basic expectations. What is a reasonable contribution to the household? Most parents don't have trouble with this one. Feed the fish. Load the dishwasher. Put salad mix into a bowl.

When children are young, getting them to help is easier. They want to be like you, even when you're taking out the garbage. For this reason, you can encourage helpful behavior as early as their second year.

"They're much more interested in what you're doing," said Claire Lerner, an early childhood development expert with Zero to Three, a Washington-based group dedicated to improving the lives of infants and toddlers. "If they spill something you say, `Oops, we had a spill. What do we do?' ... You do it together. It becomes part of their daily life."

With small children, cleaning can easily be made into a game, said Janet Frick, a professor of psychology at the University of Georgia at Athens who studies infants and children. Frick said that when she does laundry with her own children, she hands them their clothes and has them race to see who can reach their room first.

As children get older, parents have to weigh the value of housework against that of activities such as sports and lessons. Researcher Constance Gager at Montclair State University in New Jersey found that parents with college degrees tend to emphasize housework less. Children in those homes do one less hour of housework per week than their peers. Gager's study, which involved more than 3,500 youths ages 10 to 18 nationwide, didn't offer a clear reason for that. But the data mesh with Hofferth's findings that some parents see extracurricular activities as more important, especially in terms of getting into college.

However, Gager also found that some high-achieving kids manage to do it all. Those who spent more time on paid work and homework also spent time on housework and extracurriculars. Gager's best guess is that those kids are just go-getters.

"They show they can handle a lot," she said. "So their parents also give them more responsibility in the home."

Kids are more likely to chip in more if their parents are stressed over balancing work and family life. Previous research found that children of single parents also do more housework.

Amy Callner of suburban Maryland said part of the reason she hasn't had trouble getting her 6-year-old son to clean his room and help clear the table is that she's a single mom.

"It actually helps being the only grown-up in the household," she said. "I can't be played off another adult, nor can I do it all myself."

To Pay or Not to Pay?

For the less cooperative, money can be an inducement. But both Lerner and Frick said parents should try not paying children or tying an allowance to household tasks such as setting the table or taking out the trash.

"Helping is part of being a member of the family," Frick said.

Lerner says it's reasonable to pay children for something that you would typically pay someone to do, such as washing your car. But sorting out what tasks you pay for and what you do yourself can be a very personal decision. It boils down to what you want your children to take away from the experience, something Lisa Cobb of Laurel, Md., found herself mulling two years ago after her son was born and she considered hiring someone to help with housework.

Both she and her husband work full time and could afford to hire help, but in the end they chose not to.

"I didn't want my son to think that the person who scrubs the toilet is a low-income woman," Cobb said in an e-mail. "I want him to think the person who scrubs the toilet ... is the person who gets the toilet dirty. I didn't know how to teach him that lesson ... if we didn't live by it ourselves."

Breskin and his wife follow the same principle with their daughters, even though they outsource housecleaning and lawn care.

"I don't expect them to do anything I won't do myself," he said. "But I expect them to do everything I will do," such as laundry, cooking dinner, taking out the garbage and packing their lunches.

Breskin said he's lucky because his kids don't require much cajoling. Teen-agers are not always so cooperative, even if they were when they were younger, data on children's time use suggest. Hofferth found that children spend the most time on housework between ages 9 and 12. As they get older, many become busier with after-school activities or part-time work. And then there are some who just don't feel like doing it.

Zero to Three's Lerner said it's important not to give up on getting your kids to help around the house. She is still trying to convince her own teenage children that "part of loving the dog is feeding and walking him."

Even if they balk, imparting life skills is worth it.

"It's never too late," she said.

A to-do list for parents

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Child development expert Claire Lerner of the nonprofit organization Zero to Three says it's more important for parents to notice and commend a child for his or her work on a chore, rather than focusing on whether the chore is completed. This is especially true for a young child.

For example, if your child is watering plants, you could say: "You are working so hard to keep all the water in the pot." Or if she is feeding the dog: "You are being very careful to get all the dog food to stay in the bowl."

18 MONTHS AND OLDER

- Help transfer non-sharp utensils and small unbreakable items into and out of the dishwasher.
- Put trash in a trash can or dirty clothing in a hamper.
- Water plants.
- Put food or water into a pet dish.
- Turn lights on and off while being carried into and out of a room.

2 YEARS AND OLDER

- Wash unbreakable dishes and cups.
- Wipe up spills.
- Help collect recycling.
- Put toys away.

8 YEARS AND OLDER

- Sort laundry.
- Make his or her bed.
- Set and clear the table.
- Help prepare and clean up meals.
- Take out trash or recycling.

12 YEARS AND OLDER

- Wash a car.
- Clean his or her room.
- Weed the garden.
- Rake leaves.
- Shovel snow.
- Sweep floor or porch.
- Fill and empty dishwasher.
- Walk dog or replace kitty litter.

When all else fails, he writes about it

By DAN ZAK
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Jason Zasky co-founded *Failure Magazine* 8 1/2 years ago, when the United States was riding high on tech-boom success. The country's a bit different today, but the magazine is as focused as ever on failures and missteps in every avenue of life—from business to history to science to sports. (His latest article is on the "spectacular failure" of the Detroit Lions' ousted general manager.) Zasky, 38, lives in New York, where he writes for and edits the online magazine at www.failuremag.com. Excerpts from an interview:

Most magazines devote themselves to the best-dressed celebrities, the most competitive athletes, the biggest-earning companies. So the topic of failure corners a very specific market.

At the same time, failure is a very broad subject. It also is constantly intertwined with success. I think most of our stories are not very obvious. Failure is in the eye of the beholder a lot of the times. That may be the case with this election coming up.

What's a good example of the type of story you do well?

There was a golfer named Moe Norman. He was a Canadian golfer, and we billed him as "the greatest golfer the world's never known." He was this unbelievable golfer, but he was kind of like the Rain Man of golf. Because of some challenges he'd had personally, he never lived up to expectations and never made it on the PGA Tour. That's a good example of a story you'd hardly ever hear of that also had two sides. Here was this fantastic golfer—one of the best ever—but as a commercial entity he was a failure.

I assume the economic and political climates have provided good fodder for the magazine.

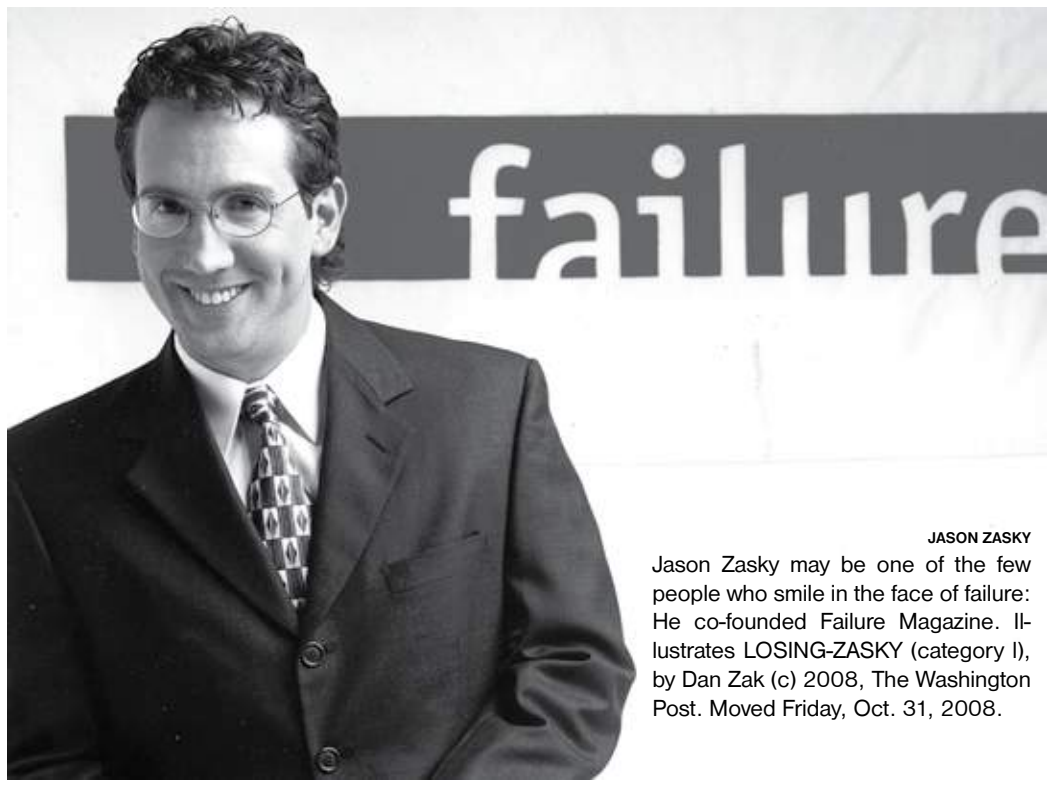
The failures of the past eight years, with the Bush administration and Republican leadership—at times that's aided traffic to our site. People are doing a lot more failure-related Web searches. The first time I really noticed it was with the response to Hurricane Katrina. In some ways, the failures of the past eight years have helped. We're probably one of the few entities where that's the case.

What's the biggest failure ever?

When we first launched the magazine, we did the Failure of the Millenniums. It was Charles the Hammer and the Battle of Tours (a 732 A.D. conflict wherein the Frankish empire stopped Muslim advances into Europe, which perhaps delayed mankind's progress in math and science, according to Zasky). And every year we do a Failure of the Year. If we want to relate this to politics: In 2004 our failure was "the American voter" for reelecting Bush and being fooled twice. In 95 percent of the content there is no angle, so to speak. We're very neutral, but this was one of the few exceptions.

***What are your plans for* Failure?**

We'll relaunch the site in the near future. I guess I'd like to see a big media partner provide us with more support. And I'd like to host a "failure week" on the History Channel.



JASON ZASKY
Jason Zasky may be one of the few people who smile in the face of failure: He co-founded Failure Magazine. Illustrates LOSING-ZASKY (category I), by Dan Zak (c) 2008, The Washington Post. Moved Friday, Oct. 31, 2008.

Winning words from those who've known defeat

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

The quotation "Winning isn't everything; it's the only thing" is often attributed to Vince Lombardi, the legendary Green Bay Packers coach and mass producer of aphorisms. Lombardi, though, favored a more nuanced spin on the classic line: "Winning isn't everything; the *will* to win is the only thing." Here are other lines from successful people who have at some time known failure.

"In God's economy, nothing is wasted. Through failure, we learn a lesson in humility which is probably needed, painful though it is."

—Bill Wilson, co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, in "As Bill Sees It" (1967)

"Failure meant a stripping away of the inessential....Had I really succeeded at anything else, I might never have found the determination to succeed in the one arena I believed I truly belonged. I was set free, because my greatest fear had already been realized, and I was still alive, and I still had a daughter whom I adored, and I had an old typewriter and a big idea. And so rock bottom became the solid foundation on which I rebuilt my life."

—Excerpt from the June 2008 Harvard University commencement speech by J.K. Rowling, billionaire author of the Harry Potter novels who spent her early writing life broke and jobless

"Life is to be lived, not controlled, and humanity is won by continuing to play in face of certain defeat."

—Writer Ralph Ellison in "Invisible Man" (1952), a novel about a young black man walking across the hot coals of racial tension in Harlem

"Remember, if you take risks, you may still fail, but if you do not take risks, you will surely fail. The greatest risk of all is to do nothing."

—Robert Goizueta, a Cuban immigrant who rose from a Coke bottler to chairman and chief executive of the Coca-Cola Co.

"Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor."

—Truman Capote, in his book of essays "The Dogs Bark" (1973), perhaps hinting at his own problems with drug use and celebrity

"Twenty-two years ago (Stephen) Douglas and I first became acquainted. We were both young then; he a trifle younger than I. Even then, we were both ambitious; I, perhaps, quite as much so as he. With me the race of ambition has been a failure —a flat failure; with him it has been one of splendid success."

—Future President Abraham Lincoln (1856), comparing himself to an eventual opponent for the presidency and proving unwittingly that a string of failures doesn't disqualify one from winning

Obama-mania in the book world

NEW YORK (AP)—Barack Obama is the hottest name in publishing.

On the weekend after he became the country's first black president-elect, Obama's "The Audacity of Hope" and "Dreams from My Father," both already million sellers, ranked No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, on Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com.

Both hardcover and paperback editions of "Audacity of Hope" were out of stock Sunday on Amazon.

Sales are up even in Arizona, home state of Obama's Republican opponent, Sen. John McCain.

"People are generally much happier this week than they were last week," Gayle Shanks, co-owner of the Changing Hands Bookstore in Tempe, said Sunday.

Demand also has surged for "Change We Can Believe In," a collection of Obama's speeches and policy proposals that had been selling modestly; for "Barack Obama in His Own Words" and for such works about him as "Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope," a children's book by Nikki Grimes, and Robert Kuttner's "Obama's Challenge," a call for a sweeping, progressive economic agenda.

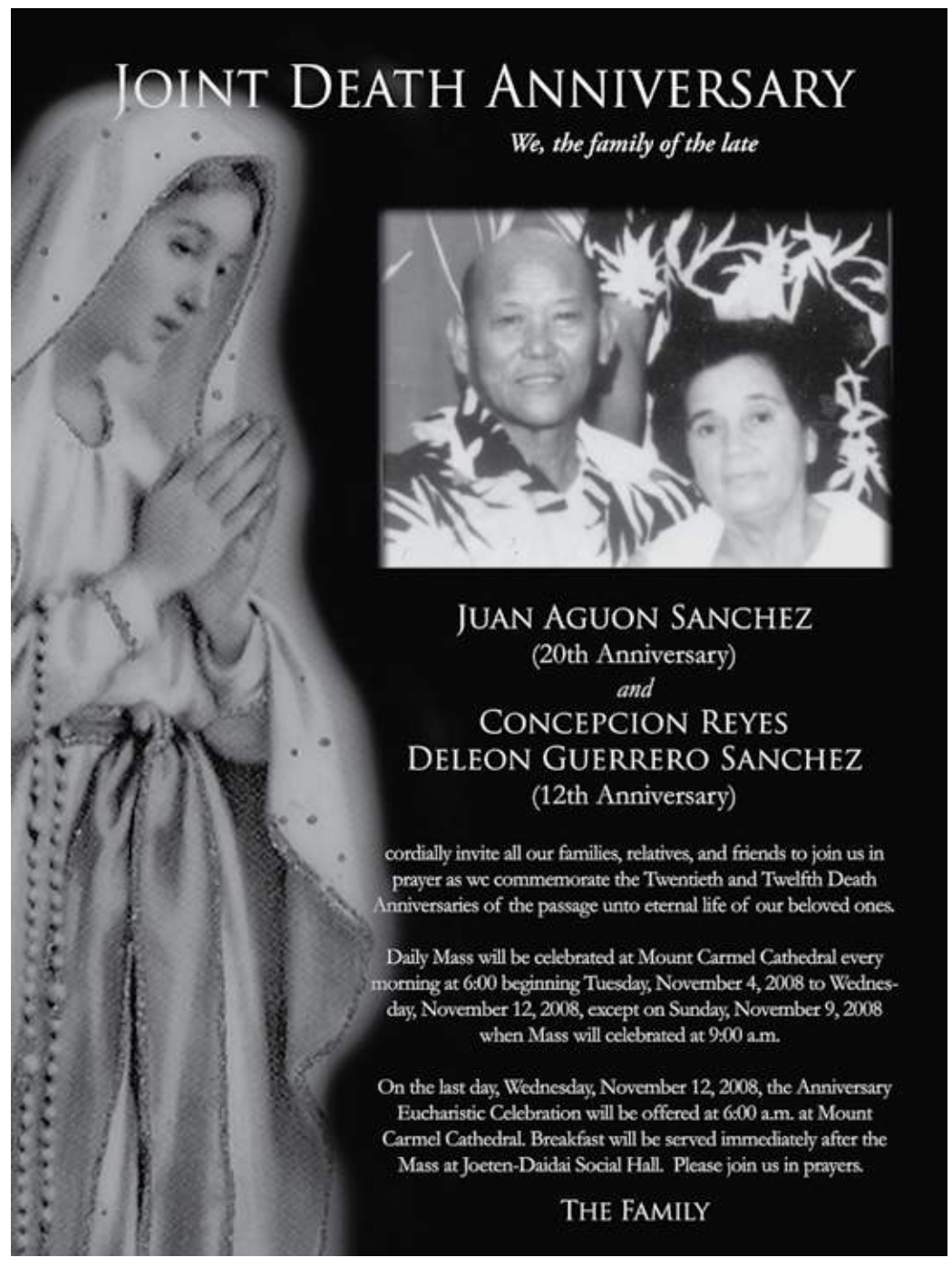
British novel tops Amazon's list for 2008

NEW YORK (AP)—Philip Hensher's "The Northern Clemency" is a British novel that as of Sunday had yet to attract any customer reviews on Amazon.com. But the online retailer's staff reviewers have noticed well, making it Amazon's book of the year.

"It quickly became a favorite here as soon as our advance copies arrived," Tom Nissley, Amazon senior books editor, said in a statement Sunday. "Its unpredictable and beautifully observed story of two families in Sheffield, England, reminded us of writers from Jonathan Franzen to Anne Tyler..."

Hensher's novel was followed by "Hurry Down Sunshine," Michael Greenberg's memoir about his daughter's mental illness; and Rick Perlstein's "Nixonland," a review of Richard Nixon's impact on American politics. Also cited was David Wroblewski's "The Story of Edgar Sawtelle," a debut novel heavily promoted by Amazon and later endorsed by Oprah Winfrey.

Others in the top 10: "The Forever War" by Dexter Filkins; "The Likeness" by Tana French; "Serena" by Ron Rash; "So Brave, Young, and Handsome" by Leif Enger; "The Lazarus Project" by Aleksandar Hemon; and "The Ten-Cent Plague" by David Hajdu.


JOINT DEATH ANNIVERSARY
We, the family of the late
JUAN AGUON SANCHEZ
(20th Anniversary)
and
CONCEPCION REYES
DELEON GUERRERO SANCHEZ
(12th Anniversary)
cordially invite all our families, relatives, and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the Twentieth and Twelfth Death Anniversaries of the passage unto eternal life of our beloved ones.
Daily Mass will be celebrated at Mount Carmel Cathedral every morning at 6:00 beginning Tuesday, November 4, 2008 to Wednesday, November 12, 2008, except on Sunday, November 9, 2008 when Mass will celebrated at 9:00 a.m.
On the last day, Wednesday, November 12, 2008, the Anniversary Eucharistic Celebration will be offered at 6:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Breakfast will be served immediately after the Mass at Joeten-Daidai Social Hall. Please join us in prayers.
THE FAMILY

‘Madagascar’ roars with $63.5 million weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Families herded into movie theaters for another trek with stranded zoo animals as the animated sequel “Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa” led the weekend with a $63.5 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The haul for the DreamWorks Animation comedy far surpassed the $47.2 million debut for “Madagascar” over Memorial Day weekend in 2005. Its three-day total also beat the $61 million gross the first movie took in over that full four-day holiday weekend.

“It just shows people seem happy to escape to the movies and have a good laugh,” said Anne Globe, head of marketing for DreamWorks Animation.

While parents with children were the bulk of the audience, “Madagascar” also drew teens and adults on their own, who made up half the audience on Friday and one-third on Saturday, Globe said.

Premiering in second place with $19.3 million was the Universal Pictures comedy “Role Models,” starring Seann William Scott and Paul Rudd as immature adults sentenced to community service as mentors for two misfit youths.

The weekend’s other new wide release, the Weinstein Co. music comedy “Soul Men,” opened weakly with $5.6 million, despite the lure of Samuel L. Jackson and his late co-stars, Bernie Mac and Isaac Hayes, who died last summer. Jackson and Mac play an estranged singing team on a reunion road trip to a memorial concert.

Mac also was among the voice cast for the “Madagascar” sequel, providing vocals as Zuba, the father of Ben Stiller’s Alex the lion.

“Certainly, he just brought a wonderful heart to the role of Zuba. We were just fortunate to have him for that character,” Globe said.

The movie also reunites voice stars Chris Rock, David Schwimmer, Jada Pinkett Smith and Sacha Baron Cohen as the animal gang crash lands in an African nature preserve.

1. “Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa,” $63.5 million.
2. “Role Models,” $19.3 million.
3. “High School Musical 3: Senior Year,” $9.3 million.
4. “Changeling,” $7.3 million.
5. “Zack and Miri Make a Porno,” $6.5 million.
6. “Soul Men,” $5.6 million.
7. “Saw V,” $4.2 million.
8. “The Haunting of Molly Hartley,” $3.5 million.
9. “The Secret Life of Bees,” $3.1 million.
10. “Eagle Eye,” $2.6 million.

Disney’s “High School Musical 3: Senior Year,” which had been No. 1 the previous two weekends, slipped to third place with $9.3 million, raising its total to $75.7 million.

“Madagascar” and “Role Models” kicked off a big start to Hollywood’s holiday season. The top 12 movies took in $128.8 million, up 32 percent from the same weekend last year.

“It’s all boding well,” said Nikki Rocco, head of distribution for Universal. “We have lots of really good films coming, lots of commercial films. I love the fact that everybody’s going to the movies. I love the fact that everybody likes what they’re seeing.”

The season continues with Sony’s James Bond adventure “Quantum of Solace” on Friday, then Summit Entertainment’s vampire romance “Twilight” and Disney’s animated canine comedy “Bolt” on Nov. 21.

“Quantum of Solace” continued to pull in big audiences overseas with $106.5 million in 60 countries, raising its total to $160.3 million since it began opening internationally Oct. 31.

Hollywood’s domestic revenue for the year stands at $7.96 billion, a fraction ahead of the pace in 2007, when the industry took in a record $9.7 billion, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

Factoring in inflation, the number of tickets sold this year trails last year’s admissions by 4 percent. But Hollywood has a stronger lineup this time heading into Thanksgiving, so studios could finish the year with a bang.

“Given where we are and the films in the pipeline, we have a huge shot at more than making up for any kind of attendance deficit,” said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers. “You wouldn’t know there was a recession if you were just looking at the movie industry.”

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

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Madagascar Escape 2 Africa

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Mon and Tue		4:10	7:25	

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock
Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis
Continuing adventures of Alex the Lion and his best friends Marty the Zebra, Melman the Giraffe and Gloria the Hippo.

Role Models

Friday		4:20	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:00	
Mon and Tue		4:20	7:00	

Seann William Scott, Paul Rudd
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

Soul Men

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:15	
Mon and Tue		4:30	7:15	

Samuel L. Jackson, Bernie MAc
Comedy • Rated R

★ ★ ★

Zack and Miri Make a Porno

Friday		4:15	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:15	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:15	7:20	
Mon and Tue		4:15	7:20	

Seth Rogen, Elizabeth Banks
Romantic Comedy • Rated R

Beverly Hills Chihuahua

Friday		4:05	@	@
Saturday	1:00	4:05	@	@
Sunday	1:00	4:05	@	
Mon and Tue		4:05	@	

Drew Barrymore (v), Andy Garcia (v)
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG

High School Musical 3

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Mon and Tue		4:00	7:10	

Zac Efron, Ashley Tisdale
Musical • Rated G

Eagle Eye

Friday		@	7:05	9:35
Saturday	@	@	7:05	9:35
Sunday	@	@	7:05	
Mon and Tue		@	7:05	

Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan
Drama • Rated PG 13

Max Payne

Friday		4:25	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Mon and Tue		4:25	7:30	

Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Quantum of Solace
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Nurse in Times Square war photo reunites with Navy

By RICHARD PYLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—A 90-year-old who says she’s the woman being kissed by a sailor in Times Square in one of World War II’s most famous photographs reunited in town with the Navy on Sunday—days before she is to serve as grand marshal of the city’s Veterans Day parade.

Edith Shain of Los Angeles, donning a white nurse’s uniform like the one she wore back in 1945, went to see the musical revival of “South Pacific” and posed for pictures, being hoisted off her feet on stage by five of the actors in their Navy whites.

On Tuesday, she’ll ride in the parade at the head of a contingent of World War II veterans.

The “South Pacific” event was a touching reminder of history, but very different from Aug. 15, 1945, the day Shain recalls that she joined thousands of people whooping it up after Japan surrendered. Right there on Broadway and 45th Street, a sailor suddenly grabbed and kissed her—and the moment was caught by Alfred Eisenstaedt, a Life magazine photographer.

AP

Edith Shain, foreground right, the nurse in the famous photograph taken by Alfred Eisenstaedt of a sailor kissing a nurse in New York’s Times Square on V-J Day, tries to imitate the photo’s embrace with Nick Mayo, foreground left, a member of the cast of the musical South Pacific as they pose with other South Pacific cast members at the Vivian Beaumont Theater in New York, Sunday Nov. 9, 2008.

His picture from V-J Day became one of the 20th century’s most iconic images. But Eisenstaedt didn’t get the names of either party, and efforts years later by Life to identify them produced a number of claimants, says Bobbi Baker Burrows, a Life editor with deep knowledge of the subject.

About 1980, Shain recalls, she wrote a letter to Life, identifying herself as the woman in the nurse’s uniform. Eisenstaedt wrote back and later visited her in California and gave her a copy of the photo. But Eisenstaedt, who died in 1995, was never sure that Shain was the woman in the photo, Burrows said.

Because of renewed interest in the subject, she recalled, “Life decided to run an article saying, `If you are the sailor or the nurse in the picture, please step forward.’”

“We received claims from a few nurses and dozens of sailors, but we could never prove that any of them were the actual people, and Eisenstaedt himself just said he didn’t know,” she said.

Even the fact that Shain stands only 4 feet 9 isn’t helpful in analyzing the photo, in which the sailor has her in what looks more like a death grip than an embrace, with both of their faces obscured.

By her own account, Shain said she could not identify the bussing boy in blue.

“I went from Doctors Hospital to Times Square that day because the war was over, and where else does a New Yorker go?” she said. “And this guy grabbed me and we kissed, and then I turned one way and he turned the other. There was no way to know who he was, but I didn’t mind because he was someone who had fought for me.”

At least three veterans still lay claim to being the kissing sailor, and at least one other woman has claimed to be the nurse. But Shain, who left nursing to become a kindergarten teacher in Los Angeles for 30 years, appears to hold the edge—by virtue of persistence, an effervescent charm and unabashed patriotism.

“As for the picture,” she says, “it says so many things—hope, love, peace and tomorrow. The end of the war was a wonderful experience, and that photo represents all those feelings.”

Beyonce wants role of Wonder Woman

By GEOFF BOUCHER
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

AP
American singer Beyonce holds the award for outstanding contribution to the arts during the 2008 World Music Awards ceremony in Monaco, Sunday Nov. 9, 2008.

Beyonce is ready for a challenge—the pop superstar wants to be the first actress to wear Wonder Woman's famed red, white and blue bathing suit on the silver screen.

"I want to do a superhero movie and what would be better than Wonder Woman? It would be great. And it would be a very bold choice. A black Wonder Woman would be a powerful thing. It's time for that, right?" said the 27-year-old Houston native.

Beyonce says she has met with representatives of DC Comics and Warner Bros. to express her interest in a major role in one of the many comic-book adaptations now in the pipeline following the massive success of "The Dark Knight," "Iron Man" and the "Spider-Man" and "X-Men" franchises. Beyonce's acting to career to date has included a comedic role in "Austin Powers in Goldmember" and two notable music world roles, the first as a quasi-Diana Ross character in "Dreamgirls" and as the defiant and heroin-addicted Etta James in the upcoming "Cadillac Records."

"After doing these roles that were so emotional I was thinking to myself, 'OK, I need to be a superhero,'" Beyonce said this week when I met her in New York. "Although, when you think about the psychology of the heroes in the films these days, they are still a lot of work, of course, and emotional. But there's also an action element that I would enjoy."

The recent success of sophisticated comic-book adaptations is the main reason for Beyonce's interest, she said, but her focus on Wonder Woman was intensified earlier this year when she saw Lynda Carter's costume from the 1970s television show on display at the Costume Institute's "Superhero" show at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Beyonce is in amazing shape right now (she had gained more than 20 pounds for the James role and came back from that leaner than before), but she said the Wonder Woman costume is an unforgiving one.

"I would definitely have to keep it right for that costume. The way that Lynda Carter wore it, she was so fine. She was amazing. I saw her costume at the Met. Her waist was unbelievable. It was pretty crazy, actually, her proportions. But I love Wonder Woman, and it'd be a dream come true to be that character. It sure would be handy to have that lasso. To make everybody tell the truth? I need that. It would come in very handy."

It's not clear if anyone will be able to deliver a Wonder Woman project any time soon, however. The heroine, who debuted in 1941, is by far the most iconic superhero who has yet to reach theaters. Superman, Batman, Spider-Man, Hulk and the Fantastic Four have all had multiple bites at the Hollywood apple and Captain America and Captain Marvel, both of whom were featured in 1940s serials, have adaptations now in the pipeline, as do Thor, Flash and Green Lantern.

Talking Obamas and Huxtables

Bill Cosby has long bristled at suggestions that his pioneering NBC comedy, "The Cosby Show," was somehow unrealistic in its portrayal of a black upper-middle-class family.

So with the Obama family set to take up residence in the White House, Cosby reflected on those statements last week with a chuckle. "For all those people who said they didn't know any black people like the Huxtables," Cosby quipped in a phone interview, "all I can say is, `Will you watch the show now?' "

The entertainer and comedian, who was promoting Tuesday's release of the 25th anniversary box set of "The Cosby Show," also admitted to being pleased with observations about the role of the so-called "Huxtable factor" in Obama's victory.

Said Karl Rove, a former Bush strategist turned Fox News commentator, on election night: "We've had an African American first family for many years in different forms. When `The Cosby Show' was on, that was America's family. It wasn't a black family. It was America's family."

"The Cosby Show" broke ground in its depiction of a black family during its run from 1984 to 1992. The successful show kicked off a formidable comedy block on Thursday nights and helped to convert the network into a ratings powerhouse for years.

"I like what people are saying now," Cosby said. "All the problems were not necessarily solved but were dealt with without violence. The parents made corrections, and people really enjoyed watching this black family."

Cosby also lamented the virtual invisibility of the black family on TV today. None are featured prominently in series on CBS, NBC, ABC or Fox—and only one broadcast network series, the CW's "Everybody Hates Chris," revolves around a two-parent black family. ***(Los Angeles Times)***

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By CINDY ELAVSKY
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: I remember a while back you mentioned that Fox would be airing a "24" movie before the new season begins in January 2009. I haven't heard anything about it since then, and I am worried that they scrapped those plans. Is the movie still on?—Larry E., Baltimore

Sutherland

A: Worry no more. On Sunday, Nov. 23, Fox will air the two-hour movie, which is called "24: Redemption." This movie will bridge the gap between the sixth and seventh seasons, and it will feature Jack Bauer, played by Kiefer Sutherland, caught up in a military coup in the fictional nation of Sangala. If you forget to set your DVR for that night, an extended director's cut of the movie will be released on DVD two days later.

■ ■ ■

Q: I heard a while back that actress Marcia Strassman was battling breast cancer. Is this true, and if so, how is she doing now?—Heather M., via e-mail

A: In March 2007, Marcia, best known for her roles on "Welcome Back, Kotter" and the "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids" movies, was diagnosed with Stage IV breast cancer that had spread to her bones. She sought immediate treatment -- an aromatase inhibitor to help control the cancer and an IV bisphosphonate to help stabilize her bones -- and today enjoys practically the same level of activity she had before her diagnosis.

After discovering that many cancer patients don't adhere to the treatment regimen outlined by their doctors, the 60-year-old actress recently embarked on a multicity, cross-country tour to tell her story to patients and physicians. She also recently published her memoirs, "Making My Own Laugh Track: Lessons on Living, Acting and Beating Cancer."

■ ■ ■

Q: Can you tell me if the actor Paul Rudd had a father by the same name who starred in a movie during the early '70s called "Johnny We Hardly Knew Ye," in which he played a young JFK?—Bob F., Oxford, Conn.

A: Paul Rudd, 39, of "Knocked Up" and "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" fame, was born in Passaic, N.J., the son of Jewish immigrants from England. His family's original surname was Rudnitzky, which was shortened to "Rudd" by his grandfather. Paul's father's name is Michael Rudd, and he is no relation to the other Paul Rudd.

Have a question for Cindy? E-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

Sisters grow from bitter rivals into best friends

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: "Hurt in Sacramento" (Aug. 27) wrote that her sister told her that the only reason she existed was because her dad had been trying for a boy after having three girls. Tell her to trust me—this is a rite of passage.

I am the youngest of three girls. I was told by my middle sister that I was born a boy, and the doctor gave me a shot to make me a girl.

This sister and I fought like cats and dogs when we were young. Finally, when I was 15 and she was 18, we shared a summer together. From that time on we have been the best of friends and would die for each other. I may have endured years of teasing that my parents didn't want me, but the relationship we have now is one I would never trade.

All I needed to know was that my dad loved me no matter what, and growing up I was always attached to my dad's hip—which may be why my sister needed to put me down. To this day I know I am Dad's favorite, even though he would never say so. Please tell "Hurt" not to listen to her older sister. She should listen instead to her heart.

DADDY'S LITTLE TAURUS

DEAR D.L.T.: Many readers agreed with you that teasing one's sibling is a rite of passage, and that once people mature, the teasing stops. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: I, too, am a sibling with three sisters. However, in my case, I came with the "package." I was 11 months old when Dad met my mom and they married. He adopted me, and then they proceeded to have three more daughters. Dad is proud of each of us in our own way. Being the oldest, I reaped most of the benefits of learning all the things he would have a taught a boy—hunting, fishing, house and car repairs, to name a few. To this day I thank him for all he taught me as his daughter.

CINDY IN SOUTH HAVEN, MICH.

DEAR ABBY: I am a former Marine and, most importantly, I am the proud father of two beautiful, intelligent, respectful and wonderful girls. During both of my wife's pregnancies, the only thing I prayed for was a healthy child.

My brother has two boys, and I pity him because he has never been the guest of honor at a formal tea party or attended a daddy-daughter dance. He has never gone to the aid of a damsel in distress by removing a threatening spider from the room. He has never been asked to judge a beauty contest in his own home. He has never had a chance to sit outside a dressing room and watch while all the girls in his life try on clothes and shoes.

A father loves all his children equally and independently. No two are the same—not even twins. We all say hurtful things that we do not mean when we're fighting. But I guarantee "Hurt in Sacramento" that she and her sister will outgrow the fighting and become best friends.

PROUD POPPA IN JACKSONVILLE, N.C.

DEAR ABBY: I'm also one of four girls. When my father was asked if he kept having children in order to sire a boy, his response was: "No. We found a good thing and stuck with it!"

FRAN IN CHICAGO

DEAR ABBY: I have an uncle with five kids—all girls. My father-in-law put it in perspective one day when he said, "Sometimes the daughters come first and the son (in-law) later." He has four sons and a grandson now, and is very proud of his daughters.

If that dad was disappointed by not having a son, he would have been disappointed after the first one—not the fourth.

RICK S., SUN PRAIRIE, WIS.

■ ■ ■

DEAR READERS: Today is Veteran's Day. I would like to thank not only our veterans, but also the men and women who are on active duty, for their service to our country.

ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

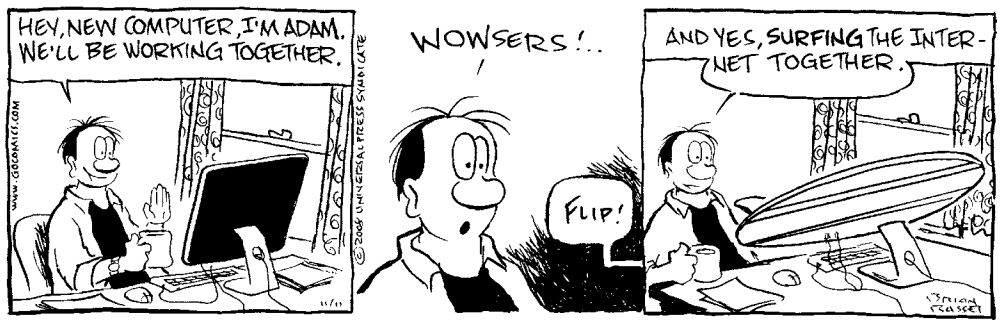
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

YOU'D LIKE MY GIRLFRIEND, DAD. SHE'S GREAT WITH ANIMALS!
I DON'T KNOW... I'LL HAVE TO ASK HER
HOW FAST CAN YOU PLUCK A CHICKEN?
JIM DAVIS 11-11

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

ALL OF OUR OPERATORS ARE BUSY. PLEASE HOLD. YOUR MONEY IS IMPORTANT TO US.
DID I SAY MONEY? I MEANT "CALL". YOUR CALL IS IMPORTANT TO US.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Type of machine
5 Corpulent
8 Ocean motion
12 Former larva
13 — de Janeiro
14 Caspian feeder
15 Height
17 Roller coaster, for one
18 Greek consonants
19 That guy's
20 — salts
21 Cambridge sch.
22 "How — love thee?"
23 Big parties
26 Whodunit
30 Enthusiastic
31 Coloration
32 1997 Peter Fonda role
33 Passed the time idly
35 Tends texts
36 Descartes' conclusion
37 Consumed
38 Wagons
41 Winter ailment
42 Binge
45 Stead
46 Seclusion
48 Sahara-like
49 Acapulco gold
50 Dutch cheese
51 Unit of force
52 Firmament
53 Male turkeys

DOWN
1 Unwanted e-mail
2 Humdinger
3 Makes up one's mind
4 Mai — (cocktail)
5 Still-life subject, often
6 Helps
7 Place-kicker's pride
8 Depravity
9 Rainbow
10 Pedestal part
11 Preceding H.S.
16 Anything but that
20 Dawn goddess
21 Importance
22 Go blonde
23 Woman
24 Past
25 Reed or Rawls
26 Pie ingredient?
27 Inventor Whitney
28 Pensioned (Abbr.)
29 "Undoubtedly"
31 Haw's partner
34 Petrol
35 Needle case
37 Mixed metal
38 Dressed
39 Ethereal
40 Check
41 Motorist's choice
42 Martial art
43 Leading man?
44 Lapidary's wares
46 Brillo rival
47 Asian holiday

Solution time: 21 mins.

O	W	N	■	■	A	S	S	■	H	O	A	R
M	A	I	L	■	R	E	C	■	I	N	C	H
I	S	L	E	■	M	A	R	■	G	O	T	O
T	H	E	F	T	■	M	E	S	H	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	O	W	■	W	I	S	E	U	P
P	A	J	A	M	A	S	■	L	A	P	S	E
U	P	O	N	■	G	E	M	■	N	E	S	T
M	E	L	D	S	■	W	O	N	D	E	R	S
A	S	T	R	O	S	■	P	A	L	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	S	I	S	■	G	O	N	Z	O
B	E	R	G	■	T	O	P	■	W	O	O	D
U	T	A	H	■	U	S	A	■	S	A	N	D
R	A	N	T	■	P	O	D	■	■	H	E	S

Yesterday's answer 11-11

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13				14			
15				16				■	17			
18			■	19			■	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26				27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33				34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40			■	41			■	42	43	44
45				■	46				47			
48				■	49			■	50			
51				■	52			■	53			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Leonardo DiCaprio, 34; Peta Wilson, 38; Calista Flockhart, 44; Demi Moore, 46

Happy Birthday: You can challenge anyone and win this year. Take action with confidence and focus on your concerns, goals and personal happiness. Moderation and simplicity will be what keeps everything together. Pull in favors and support the people who back you in return. Your numbers are 1, 11, 16, 21, 26, 30, 43

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't be afraid to ask for favors or to take advantage of a situation that arises. Engage in talks with people who have something to offer and you will come up with a solution to a pending problem. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Integrity will help you overcome any challenge. A relationship you are involved in will need to be dealt with in order to set the record straight. That way, you both will know what's expected of you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): If you conceal information, you will be blamed and criticized. Talk to someone who can make a difference to the outcome of a situation you are involved in. As long as you tell what you know to the right person, you will get ahead. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You hold the right cards but, if you hesitate, you will lose ground. State the facts and what you expect and you will get things moving in a positive direction. An unusual occurrence will lead to a profitable change. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't mix business with pleasure. Your emotional state will not do you justice when it comes to important decisions. Keep what you are up to a secret until the last possible moment. Focus on fun and family, not on making financial or professional moves just yet. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't give away the advantage by trying to do things that aren't your forte. Make decisions based on facts and learn more about the things that will help you broaden your talents. Don't play games with someone you love. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Talk to as many people as possible about your plans. Put together an interesting proposition for someone you know can contribute to your world. You can form positive professional and personal partnerships. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Use your ingenuity financially and you will move in the right direction. Don't be fooled by someone who has a get-rich-quick plan. You are better off paying your dues and building a strong foundation for your set goals. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't stop before you cross the finish line. You have to play-to-win. A well-planned strategy will help you find victory but flying by the seat of your pants, leaving everything to chance, will leave you with little. Stick to the rules. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You will be taken advantage of if you don't recognize the power someone else has over a situation you are involved in. Keep everyone guessing about what you'll do next and you will have a better chance of staying in control. Someone you least expect will let you down. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Offer your help or services to a non-profit organization that supports a cause that's important to you. Your strength, courage and wherewithal will lead to benefits. Educate, formulate and promote your goals. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A foolish action will be costly. Keep your emotions in check and don't be caught off guard by someone you love. Stay in control of your money and you will also have power over the outcome. ✪✪✪

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				8				
6				2				4
4			9	5	3			7
		1				4		
7	9	3				6	1	5
		6				7		
5			7	3	4			9
1				6				8
				9				

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	7	2	8	3	5	6	9	1
6	1	5	9	2	7	8	3	4
3	8	9	6	1	4	5	7	2
1	2	4	3	6	9	7	5	8
8	6	3	7	5	1	4	2	9
9	5	7	4	8	2	3	1	6
7	3	6	1	9	8	2	4	5
5	4	1	2	7	6	9	8	3
2	9	8	5	4	3	1	6	7

Difficulty Level ★ 11/10

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DANIEL DAY-LEWIS **Solution: 7 letters**

G	E	G	A	T	S	R	E	T	R	O	P	P	U	S
S	H	A	K	E	S	P	E	A	R	E	K	S	I	R
E	E	A	L	N	D	E	S	R	E	M	M	I	U	E
G	L	T	N	G	P	R	A	I	S	E	N	T	L	E
S	I	C	T	D	N	F	I	L	M	O	H	S	A	R
T	(F)	F	I	R	I	O	G	D	M	L	P	M	N	A
A	H	(A)	T	T	A	R	L	I	E	I	Y	O	O	C
R	L	R	(N)	E	R	M	N	S	R	T	R	T	I	T
G	A	L	I	(S)	D	A	S	I	I	R	O	I	S	O
A	O	G	E	L	T	N	T	R	A	E	A	V	S	R
W	G	L	U	E	L	C	B	F	M	X	M	A	E	H
A	O	A	D	I	B	E	N	O	A	O	E	T	F	D
R	H	O	M	E	L	O	R	D	R	B	N	E	O	L
D	R	A	R	E	N	D	L	S	D	N	I	D	R	O
S	N	A	C	I	H	O	M	G	Y	K	C	I	P	B

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Actor, Article, Awards, Bafta, Bold, Born, Boxer, Career, Celebrity, Cinema, Devoted, Drama, Fans, Film, Ghandi, Gifted, Globe, Goal, Golden, Guild, Home, Immersed, Irish, Long, Mohicans, Motivated, Nominated, Performance, Picky, Praise, Professional, Rare, Risk, Roles, Ruthless, Shakespeare, Smart, Spirit, Stage, Star, Supporters, Thrillers, Titles

Yesterday's Answer: Flatbread

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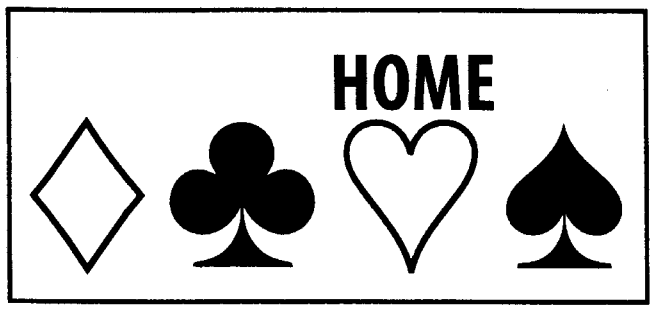

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Collins makes sure Titans stay unbeaten

CHICAGO (AP)—Kerry Collins threw for 289 yards and two touchdowns, and the Tennessee Titans beat the Chicago Bears 21-14 Sunday to remain undefeated despite rushing for just 20 yards.

That was just one more than their franchise-low, a stunning performance for a team that was third in the league entering the game. Even so, the Titans (9-0) set a franchise record with their 12th straight regular-season win thanks to Collins and a defense that shut down Rex Grossman and the Bears.

AP

Tennessee Titans quarterback Kerry Collins (5) passes against the Green Bay Packers in the fourth quarter of an NFL football game in Nashville, Tenn., Sunday, Nov. 2, 2008.

Giants 36, Eagles 31

At Philadelphia, Eli Manning threw two touchdown passes, Brandon Jacobs had two TD runs and New York held on to beat Philadelphia.

The Eagles had the ball at their own 45 with 1:55 left, but Brian Westbrook was stopped on fourth-and-1.

The Giants (8-1) are two games ahead of the Washington Redskins and three in front of the Eagles (5-4) and Dallas Cowboys in the National Football Conference East. New York is 3-0 against its division rivals.

Chargers 20, Chiefs 19

At San Diego, Clinton Hart knocked down Tyler Thigpen's 2-point conversion pass with 23 seconds left and the Chargers held on to beat the scrappy Chiefs.

The Chiefs pulled within one on Thigpen's 3-yard pass to tight end Tony Gonzalez. The Chiefs (1-9) went for the win, but Thigpen's pass to Gonzalez was deflected by Hart to cornerback Quentin Jammer, who made the interception while on the ground.

Panthers 17, Raiders 6

At Oakland, California, Jake Delhomme threw a touchdown pass on the opening drive before matching his career-worst performance with four interceptions in a win over the lowly Raiders

DeAngelo Williams ran for 140 yards and scored on a 69-yard run for the only touchdown after the opening drive for the Panthers (7-2). But against a Raiders team that hasn't reached the end zone in nine quarters, that was more than enough to keep Carolina in first place in the NFC South.

Vikings 28, Packers 27

At Minneapolis, Adrian Peterson rushed for 192 yards and reached across the end zone with 2:22 left for the winning TD to end Minnesota's five-game losing streak to Green Bay.

Mason Crosby's 52-yard field goal attempt in the closing seconds was just wide, helping the Vikings (5-4) pull into a first-place tie with the Chicago Bears. Green Bay (4-5) is one game back in the NFC North.

Dolphins 21, Seahawks 19

At Miami, the Dolphins withstood a frantic rally by injury-riddled Seattle to secure a winning record.

Surprising Miami (5-4) won its third in a row and remained in the thick of the American Football Conference East race. After going 1-15 last season, the Dolphins are above .500 for the first time since the end of the 2005 season.

The Dolphins' Wildcat formation, shut out in the past three games, produced scores on a 51-yard run by Ricky Williams and a 16-yard run by Ronnie Brown. Ted Ginn Jr. scored his first touchdown this season when he made a fingertip catch in the end zone of a 39-yard pass from Chad Pennington on a flea-flicker.

Falcons 34, Saints 20

At Atlanta, Drew Brees, the NFL's most prolific passer, threw a season-high three interceptions, the last returned 95 yards for a touchdown by Chevis Jackson.

Matt Ryan threw two touchdown passes for the Falcons (6-3), who won for the fourth time in five games to remain in the thick of the playoff race. The Saints (4-5) again failed to put together their first winning streak of the season.

Patriots 20, Bills 10

At Foxborough, Massachussets, Patriots rookie runner BenJarvus Green-Ellis had his best game as a pro, Matt Cassel had a solid one and the free-falling Bills had another bad one.

Add a dominating performance by New England's defense, and Buffalo's hopes in the tight AFC East race suffered a serious blow.

Green-Ellis, an undrafted rookie from Mississippi playing because three running backs are hurt, rushed for 105 yards on 26 carries and scored on a 1-yard run, his fourth straight game with a touchdown.

Jets 47, Rams 3

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, Thomas Jones had three touchdown runs, Jay Feely kicked four field goals—including a franchise record-tying 55-yarder—and the Jets converted five turnovers into 27 points for the largest margin of victory in team history.

The Jets' previous biggest win was 45-3 over Houston in 1988.

Jones had 29 carries for 149 yards, and Brett Favre was 14-of-19 for 167 yards and a touchdown to Dustin Keller before calling it a day early in the fourth quarter. It was the Jets' first win over the Rams since 1983.

Jaguars 38, Lions 14

At Detroit, Maurice Jones-Drew ran for a career-high three touchdowns in the second quarter alone after Detroit took the lead and David Garrard threw two touchdown passes in the second half.

Fred Taylor ran for 80 yards after having 25 yards rushing or fewer in the previous five games. Jones-Drew finished with 70 yards rushing after combining for just 62 in the last two losses.

Ravens 41, Texans 13

At Houston, rookie Joe Flacco threw for two touchdowns and Ray Lewis had a pair of interceptions to lead the Ravens to their fourth straight win. The Ravens (6-3) have scored at least 27 points in a team-record four consecutive games.

Flacco was 15-of-23 for 185 yards and threw touchdowns to Yamon Figurs and Todd Heap, keeping his composure despite being under heavy pressure most of the day.

Love gets first PGA win in 2 years at Disney

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Davis Love III hit into the rough and a bunker on the last two holes. Then he hit the jackpot.

Love scrambled for pars on both holes and closed with an 8-under 64 to win his first tournament in more than two years, holding off a late challenge from Tommy Gainey for a one-shot victory Sunday in the Children's Miracle Network Classic at Disney World.

It was the 20th career PGA Tour victory for Love, giving him a lifetime exemption. Among active players, only Tiger Woods, Vijay Singh and Phil Mickelson have won at least 20 times.

"I always questioned, 'Am I doing the right thing? Why am I still doing this,'" the 44-year-old Love said. "I didn't doubt my desire, or that I could still compete, it was just the little things I had to do."

Gainey, who had $65,405 in earnings heading into the final tournament of the year, shot 30 on the back nine including birdies on the final two holes for a 64. He made $496,800 to go from No. 228 to No. 148 on the money list. That gets him into the final stage of Q-school, and his conditional status for being in the top 150 should get him about 15 starts next year.

"I played horrible, terrible this year," Gainey said. "I had one week, and this was the week. I definitely assured myself of a place to play next year."

Love stepped in hole playing a recreational round last year and tore two ankle ligaments. During his time off, he worked harder on conditioning and spent time with sports psychologist Bob Rotella, who convinced him to adopt a take-no-prisoner's approach.

That came in handy over the final two holes.

With a two-shot lead, Love's tee shot on the 17th nearly found the water but still was buried in deep rough, leaving him no shot at the green. He laid up 100 yards short, hit wedge to 7 feet and saved par. From the right rough on the 18th, his ball came out hot and flew the green into a back bunker. Needing par to win, he blasted out to 3 feet and made the putt.

"I was in trouble (on 18) but I was still confident I could get the ball up and in," Love said. "I didn't worry about winning or losing or screwing up."

Love went 64-64 on the weekend, the best final 36-hole score in the tournament's 38-year history.

Gainey went to the driving range after Love hit his second shot on 18 into the sand.

"I thought that would be a tough downhill shot, and I thought I had to go to the range to loosen up," Gainey said.

He had barely begun loosening up when his ears told him everything he needed to know.

"You could hear the crowd," Gainey said. "The crowd said it all. When I'd heard he chipped within 3 feet, or 2-foot-11-inches or whatever, I knew Davis Love wasn't going to miss that.

"I took my gloves off and put them back in the bag."

Scott Verplank and Steve Marino, tied for the lead going into the final round, each closed with 71 and tied for third. Verplank shot 38 on the front nine, and four straight birdies to start the back nine were not off to get him back into contention.

Verplank has been the 54-hole leader at Disney three times without winning.

Marino, however, matched birdies with Love and was tied for the lead when it all fell apart on the easy par-4 13th. With his tee shot just short of the green, Marino's pitch failed to clear the bunker and plugged into the slope of the sand. His next shot caromed off the lip of the bunker, and he took bogey to fall two shots behind.

AP

Davis Love III holds the first place trophy with Mickey Mouse after winning the Children's Miracle Network Classic PGA golf tournament at Walt Disney World in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008.

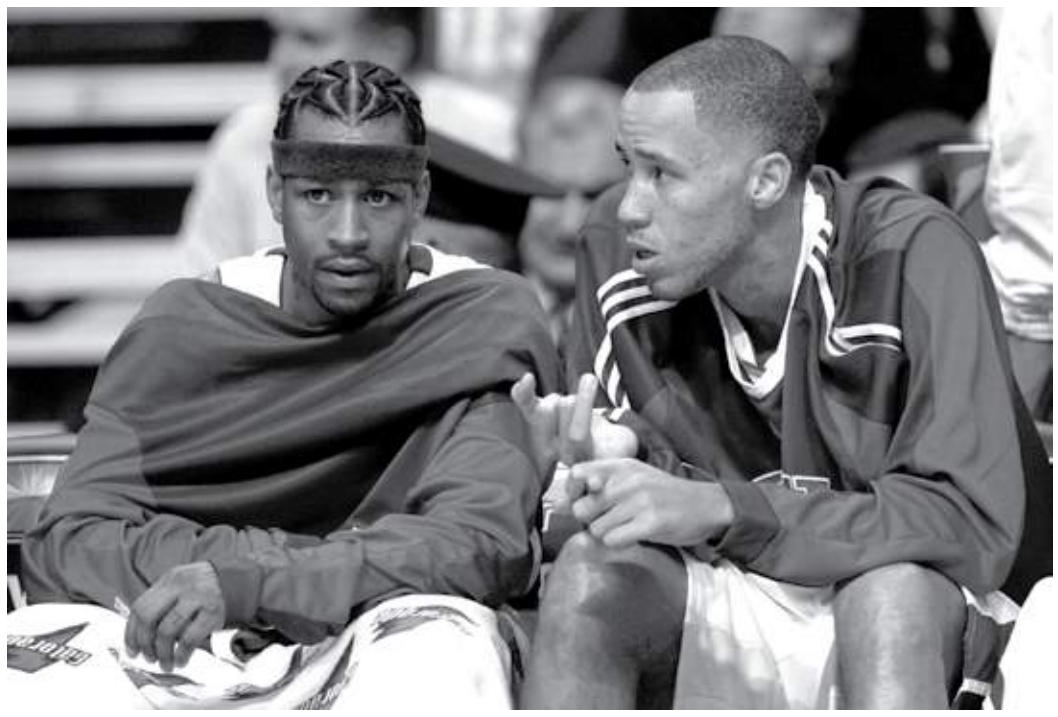
Celtics rout Pistons, dropping them to 0-2 with A.I.

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan (AP)—Tony Allen scored most of his 23 points in the pivotal second quarter, foiling Allen Iverson's home debut with the Detroit Pistons and helping the Boston Celtics to an 88-76 win on Sunday.

Iverson was given a standing ovation when he was introduced for the first time as a Piston at The Palace, the frenzied fans so loud the public-address announcer couldn't be heard.

A sold-out crowd stayed in the game during a closely contested first quarter before being quieted in the second, when Boston used four reserves to outscore Detroit 30-10.

Ray Allen had 17 points, Kevin Garnett scored eight on 4-of-15 shooting and Paul Pierce added seven on 3-of-10 shooting for Boston. Rajon Rondo scored 13 points and Eddie House had eight points as one of four reserves with at least six points.



AP

Detroit Pistons guard Allen Iverson, left, talks with forward Tayshaun Prince during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game at the Palace in Auburn Hills, Mich., Sunday, Nov. 9, 2008.

Lakers 111, Rockets 82

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 23 points, Pau Gasol added 20 points and 15 rebounds, and the unbeaten Los Angeles Lakers shot 65.8 percent in the second half against Houston.

Jordan Farmar added 16 points and six assists and Andrew Bynum had 13 points and seven rebounds for the Lakers, who have won their five games by an average of 22.4 points. Atlanta, also 5-0, is the NBA's only other unbeaten team.

Aaron Brooks came off the bench to lead Houston with 20 points and four assists. Yao Ming, Luis Scola and Carl Landry added 12 points each for the Rockets.

Kings 115, Warriors 98

At Sacramento, California, Kevin Martin scored 27 points, and Sacramento pulled away from Golden State in the second half for its third straight win after opening the season with four losses on the road.

John Salmons scored 16 points for the Kings, who are in a stretch where they play six of seven at friendly Arco Arena. Spencer Hawes added 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Andris Biedrins had 16 points and 18 rebounds for the Warriors, who have dropped two straight and three of four. Stephen Jackson had 15 points and six assists, Kelenna Azubuike had 12, Anthony Randolph scored 11, while both C.J. Watson and Brandan Wright added 10.

Clippers 103, Mavericks 92

At Los Angeles, Baron Davis had 22 points and 10 assists, foul-plagued Al Thornton got eight of his 17 points in the final 6 minutes and the Los Angeles Clippers snapped a season-opening six-game losing streak with a victory over Dallas.

Marcus Camby had 14 rebounds and 10 points for the Clippers, who had lost six straight against Dallas. Davis was 8-for-19 from the field after missing 10 of 12 shots in the first half. Tim Thomas sat out because of a sprained left ankle.

Dirk Nowitzki, who missed the final two meetings with the Clippers last season because of ankle and knee injuries, led the Mavericks with 33 points and seven rebounds.

Gerald Green started at small forward and had 13 points and 12 rebounds in place of Josh Howard, who was sidelined because of a sore left wrist.

Nuggets 100, Grizzlies 90

At Denver, Carmelo Anthony scored 24 points, Chauncey Billups had 16 points and 10 assists and Denver held on to beat Memphis.

Rookie guard O.J. Mayo scored a season-high 31 and added eight rebounds for the Grizzlies, but he had only five points after halftime. Rudy Gay finished with 16 points for Memphis.

The Nuggets trailed by five early in the third quarter before surging into the lead for good. Anthony's layup tied it at 58, and Dahntay Jones' three-point play and Nene's dunk gave Denver a 63-58 advantage midway through the period.

Knicks 107, Jazz 99

At New York, Jamal Crawford scored 32 points to lead New York past Utah and end the Jazz's undefeated start.

Carlos Boozer had 19 points and 17 rebounds for Utah (5-1), which was trying to start 6-0 for the first time since the lockout-delayed 1998-99 season. Andrei Kirilenko had 18 points and Mehmet Okur 17 for the Jazz, who were opening a five-game Eastern Conference road trip.

The Knicks put it away with under 4 minutes to go, with Chris Duhon sinking a jumper and feeding Zach Randolph for a fast-break bucket that made it 98-86.

Raptors 89, Bobcats 79

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Chris Bosh had 30 points and 15 rebounds, Andrea Bargnani scored 18 points and Toronto pulled away late to beat Charlotte.

Jose Calderon added 13 points and Jamario Moon had 10 for Toronto, which snapped a two-game losing streak after opening the season with three straight wins.

Bobcats rookie D.J. Augustin scored 11 of his 14 points in the second quarter in helping Charlotte take a 45-40 lead at the break. Jason Richardson and Raymond Felton had 12 points each, and Jared Dudley 10.

Hawks 89, Thunder 85

At Oklahoma City, Joe Johnson scored 25 points and Atlanta came from behind after a late Oklahoma City run to remain undefeated.

Johnson hit a right-handed runner to give Atlanta an 82-80 lead with 2:19 to play, then added a two-handed runout jam to extend it. The Hawks got two offensive rebounds on a last-minute possession, and Mike Bibby added a pair of free throws for a more comfortable cushion.

Marvin Williams added 16 points, Flip Murray finished with 14 and Mike Bibby scored 13 for Atlanta, off to a 5-0 start for the first time since starting the 1997-98 season with 11 straight wins.

Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 20 points, rookie Russell Westbrook scored 15 and Joe Smith had 14 points and nine rebounds.

Spurs' Parker will miss four weeks

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tony Parker will be out about four weeks with a sprained left ankle, a critical blow to the San Antonio Spurs, who are off to their worst start in 12 years.

An MRI taken Saturday confirmed the injury to the Spurs' star guard, who was hurt during a 99-83 loss to the Miami Heat on Friday—two nights after scoring a career-high 55 points against the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Parker was driving for a layup when he rolled his ankle.

The 26-year-old Parker was using crutches and wearing a protective boot while watching Sunday's practice. He was second in the league in scoring behind LeBron James at 27.4 points per game.

The Spurs are 1-4 and play at home against the New York Knicks on Tuesday. In 1996, they opened the season 1-5.

Parker will be replaced by either rookie George Hill or 12th-year veteran Jacques Vaughan. Hill took Parker's place against the Heat.

"You'll probably get to see George play a lot," Spurs president R.C. Buford said. "We'll continue to evaluate not only our team, but the NBA market as we go along. Our guys have been encouraged with what George has done to date."

One of the last cuts the Spurs made in the preseason was fourth-year point guard Salim Stoudamire, who has not been signed by another team.

The Spurs are also missing Manu Ginobili, who is expected to be out until December while recovering from ankle surgery. He participated in cutting and shooting drills during Sunday's practice.

"I don't think we can comment on Manu other than to say that he continues to progress as prescribed," Buford said.

Hill has played 35 minutes since being drafted 26th overall out of Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis. He played 10 minutes after Parker left Friday, missing three shots from the floor. He finished with one point, an assist and a turnover.

The 33-year-old Vaughan was inactive, though no injury was listed. He dressed but did not play Wednesday at Minnesota. He averaged 10 minutes in the Spurs' first four games this season.

MLB BRIEFS

Pettitte files for free agency

NEW YORK (AP)—Yankees left-hander Andy Pettitte filed for free agency Sunday after repeatedly saying he hopes to return to the club next year. Pettitte went 14-14 last season with a 4.54 ERA—his highest ERA since 1999. General manager Brian Cashman said last week he wants Pettitte to return next season but the 36-year-old veteran said Friday night he hadn't heard from the team. Pettitte likely would have to agree to a cut from his $16 million salary last season, when he was 2-7 with a 6.23 ERA in his final 11 starts, and missed his last turn because of a sore pitching shoulder. End-of-season tests failed to reveal significant issues. Pettitte is the 169th free agent, and seven more are potentially eligible to file before Thursday's deadline.

Padres exercise $9 million option on Brian Giles

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The San Diego Padres on Friday exercised their $9 million option on right fielder Brian Giles, whose .398 on-base percentage was one of the best in baseball. The 37-year-old will be back for his seventh season with his hometown Padres. The team had a choice between the option or a $3 million buyout. Giles hit .306 with 40 doubles and 12 homers, along with 63 RBIs and 87 walks. Giles is a career .294 hitter in parts of 14 big league seasons with the Cleveland Indians, Pittsburgh Pirates and Padres.

Rangers exercise $6.2 million option on Blalock

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—The Texas Rangers on Friday exercised a $6.2 million option on oft-injured infielder Hank Blalock. Blalock has played just 123 games the last two seasons. The two-time All-Star missed 108 days in 2008 after two long stints on the disabled list. A career third baseman, he made a midseason switch to first base this year. Blalock finished the season batting .287 with 12 home runs and 38 RBIs in 65 games. In September, he batted .337 with eight home runs and 23 RBIs in 24 games. The 27-year-old Blalock has been with the Rangers for seven seasons, second only to Michael Young among current players. He was an All-Star in 2003 and 2004.

Brewers hire Randolph as bench coach

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Brewers hired former New York Mets manager Willie Randolph as bench coach on Saturday. The 54-year Randolph was fired as the Mets manager on June 17. His career record was 302-253 and he led New York to the playoffs in 2006. His .544 winning percentage ranks second to Davey Johnson (.588) in Mets history. "We are very pleased to add Willie to the organization as he brings recent National League expertise and success to our coaching staff," general manager Doug Melvin said. "His reputation as a player is a quality that will be valuable in his teaching and coaching of our talented young team. Willie is a professional both on and off the field." Ken Macha was hired Oct. 30 as the manager, taking over from Dale Sveum following the team's first postseason appearance since 1982. In addition to his managerial experience, Randolph spent 11 seasons on the coaching staff of the New York Yankees as third base coach (1994-2003) and bench coach (2004).

Mavericks owner Cuban remains interested in Cubs

DENVER (AP)—Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban remains as interested as ever in buying the Chicago Cubs, dismissing a report that Major League Baseball might not want him as an owner. According to a Chicago Sun-Times report that cited a baseball source, there was "zero chance" of Cuban taking over the Cubs. The Sun-Times source said the Internet billionaire would meet with resistance in trying to get approval from Major League Baseball. Cuban wouldn't comment on the report before the Mavericks played Denver on Friday night. "There's no reason to comment on anonymous comments from unsolicited sources. I mean it's ridiculous," Cuban said. Cuban is in the running to purchase the team from the Tribune Co. after reportedly bidding more than $1 billion. Others believed to be interested are a group headed by John Canning, chairman of private equity firm Madison Dearborn Partners LLC; and the family of online brokerage Ameritrade founder Joe Ricketts. "Nothing's changed," Cuban said. "I mean it's a great opportunity."

Voyagers, Home Boys maintain pole positions

PTI Voyagers and Primo's Home Boys continued to lead their respective divisions in the Budweiser Open 8-Ball League ran by the Saipan Billiards Association.

Voyagers improved their league-leading 37-11 win-loss mark in the Agingan Division skunking tailender Coral Reef Shark Attack, 4-0, Tuesday Night at the latter's home turf.

The PTI quintet of Roman Rodriguez, R.J. Mascarinas, Jojo Talibong, Rolly Villanueva, and Luis Fajardo accounted for 139 points against the 99 put up by Shark Attack's Bernard Kileleman, Bill Limes, Ben Norita, Patrick Taitano, and Vince Mareham.

The loss pushed Shark Attack down deeper in the cellar with a woeful 11-37 standing.

Second-running Docomo Pacific Hustlers kept pace with Voyagers after registering a 4-0 shutout victory against Godfather's Rock Steady at Krystal Perfect Spot. The rout was mirrored by the points spread, as the Hustlers came away with 140 points to Rock Steady's 101.

The victory gave Hustlers a 36-12 slate, a half game behind rival PTI, while the loss knocked down Rock Steady's record to 15-33.

The only match in the division that didn't result in a sweep saw Islander Rent A Car beat USSP Wat-Ever, 3-1, or 130-115. The latter improved to 30-18, while the former dropped to 15-33.

Home Boys, for its part, increased its lead in the Obyan Division to three games following its 3-1 win over second-running Perfect Spotters at Primo's Bar Tuesday night.

Primo's Nolan Cultura, Franz De Luna, Mario Diola, Jorge Lizardo, and Juancho Mendoza accounted for 122 points to beat Perfect Spotter's Serge Tibudan, Eric Piol, Johnny Dugos, Primo Ferrera, and Mario Jumalan, who totaled 106 points.

It was win No. 31 against 17 losses for the Home Boys, while Perfect Spotters dropped to 28-20.

In other Obyan Division matches, USSP Fotten Palau (27-21) beat VFW Warriors (17-31), 4-0; and D'Pirates Huwa (23-25) defeated Coral Reef Barracuda (18-3), 3-1.

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the SBA-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

For more information about the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League and SEDA, contact Charlotte Tenepere at 233-4397. ***(Mark Rabago)***

BROTHERHOOD

From Page 28

Amigos back into the game, as Ayuyu answered with his own three-run homer at the bottom of the fourth.

In the women's finals, Sakudi and the Hitters also battled neck-and-neck before the former claimed the championships.

Sakudi won the series opener, two weeks ago, 13-4, but failed to wrap up the title showdown when the Hitters pulled off a 5-4 win in Game 2 Sunday.

The Hitters shut out Sakudi in the last three innings to force a deciding Game 3.

Kayla Techur scored two runs in Game 3 on a Jenny Palacios singles in the first and third inning, while Emma Tudela and Bert Camacho made one run apiece to lift Sakudi to a 4-2 victory.

Felisa Brel scored one run for the Hitters on a Linda Cabrera single in the second inning, while Angela Ngirbedul made the other run in the sixth inning on an Alana Sumang sacrifice fly.

The Hitters made one final try to steal the title from Sakudi at the top of the last inning. But the Hitters' first two batters flied out and third batter Cabrera was beaten to first base with Sakudi pitcher Bego Camacho picking up a grounder and throwing the ball to Pauline Tudela on first base.

In the battle for third place, Ohn Sakau defeated Atu-Asi, 10-2.

ATTAO

From Page 28

Ben Duenas (72.20); Jay Santos (72.40); Umezawa Tadashi (73); Lee Wan Sub (73.40); Ray Villagomez (74); Frank Murakami (74), Greg Gamboa (74.20); Dennis Yoshimoto (74.40). Jess Wabol (74.60), and Shinichiro Kobayashi (74.60).

Rotary Club of Saipan president Ben Babauta along with the club's district governor Nobu Shindo handed the awards to winners.

Babauta said proceeds from the tournament will be used for the construction of the Kagman Community Children's Park.

The club president thanked golfers for participating in the annual tournament, and individuals and companies which donated prizes for the weekend event.

2008

From Page 28

Also discussed at the meeting was the schedule of games, which are tentatively set for every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Mesa said two games will be played on weekdays, while they are planning to hold three matches every Saturday.

Mesa added he will be conducting clinics for teams interested in joining the MBL. The clinic will focus on educating players by the book using FIBA rules.

The league coordinator said having "by the book" knowledge about FIBA rules will lessen confusions/complains during games.

The 2008 season of the MBL will serve as a preparation for players who are interested in competing in the World Masters Olympics in Sydney, Australia.

Mesa said he is trying to form a team composed of players in the CNMI to represent the Commonwealth to the Sydney tournament.

"It will be a selection of players in the 35-and-above and 40-and-above age groups. It will be a great experience for CNMI players to compete in Sydney, as the World Masters will feature former world championship and Olympic veterans.

For more information about MBL, contact Mesa at 878-8679

CENTURY

From Page 28

resumed Sunday and ended in deadlock anew after 40 minutes of play, 82-all.

Melvin Villarin drilled a triple in the last six seconds of the regulation to send the game into overtime.

Wowie Abuel, who in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter missed crucial free throws which could have secured the win early for Century, canned two triples in overtime to lift his team to a eight-point win.

Jawn Joyner made several steals in the extra frame resulting to many fastbreak baskets for Century, which finished the regular season with a 5-1 record, winning its last five games. Century dropped its debut during the league opener, bowing to Aon Insurance, 87-103.

MIGS also finished with a 5-1 record, but lost the tie and the pennant to Century, as the latter prevailed in their duel last week, 98-94.

Abuel paced Century in their win against C&R, firing 30 markers, while Bing Marasigan chipped in 26. Three other Century players finished in double figures with Larry Palero adding 17 and Joyner and Gil Gapor contributing 12 apiece.

In other results, C&R played its second match Sunday and bounced back with a 100-83 victory over San Miguel Light.

James Villacrusis waxed hot from downtown, drilling four triples and scoring 29 markers to lead C&R's win.

C&R improved to a 2-3 record and will play its last game against Aon Insurance. The C&R-Aon match was set for last week, but was suspended due to rain and will resume this week.

C&R handed San Miguel its fifth loss in as many games.

San Miguel hopes to enter the win column this Thursday when it faces Olivos.

Diamond Auto Care played in the third game of the night and thwarted Aon Insurance, 109-96.

Diamond finished the regular season with a 3-3 record, while Aon dropped to a 2-3 slate.

First Game

Century 104—Abuel 30, Marasigan 26, L. Palero 17, Joyner 12, Gapor 12, Opone 3, R. Palero 2, Jinang 2.

C&R/NRG 96—Cruz 35, Peredo 12, Estolas 9, Villarin 7, Villacrusis 7, Dayrit 6, Barrios 4, Gamboa 2, Capalad 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-19, 30-44, 61-all. 82-all, 104-96.

Second Game

C&R/NRG 100—Villacrusis 29, Camacho 11, Barrios 10, Estolas 9, Capalad 8, Villarin 8, Artates 8, D. Chan 8, Dayrit 7.

San Miguel 83—Abenoja 17, Itaas 14, Ritual 12, Lauron 12, Lansang 9, Sarmiento 3, Buniag 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-14, 47-32, 71-55, 100-83

Third Game

Diamond Auto Care 109—Esdrelon 31, Delos Reyes 24, Ranola 17, Guiab 16, Talania 13, Fernandez 4.

Aon Insurance 96—Factor 30, Lim 23, De Guzman 14, Eclevia 12, Abuy 10, Bahillo 7, Mendoza 4.

Scoring by quarters: 27-21, 51-42, 74-68, 109-96.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	6	1	.857	–
New York	4	2	.667	1 1/2
Toronto	4	2	.667	1 1/2
New Jersey	2	3	.400	3
Philadelphia	2	4	.333	3 1/2

Southeast Division

Atlanta	5	0	1.000	–
Orlando	4	2	.667	1 1/2
Miami	3	3	.500	2 1/2
Charlotte	2	4	.333	3 1/2
Washington	0	5	.000	5

Central Division

Cleveland	5	2	.714	–
Detroit	4	2	.667	1/2
Chicago	3	4	.429	2
Milwaukee	3	4	.429	2
Indiana	2	3	.400	2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	4	2	.667	–
Houston	4	3	.571	1/2
Memphis	3	4	.429	1 1/2
Dallas	2	4	.333	2
San Antonio	1	4	.200	2 1/2

Northwest Division

Utah	5	1	.833	–
Denver	3	3	.500	2
Portland	3	3	.500	2
Minnesota	1	5	.167	4
Oklahoma City	1	5	.167	4

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	5	0	1.000	–
Phoenix	5	2	.714	1
Sacramento	3	4	.429	3
Golden State	2	5	.286	4
L.A. Clippers	1	6	.143	5

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 89, Charlotte 79
New York 107, Utah 99
L.A. Clippers 103, Dallas 92
Boston 88, Detroit 76
Atlanta 89, Oklahoma City 85
Denver 100, Memphis 90
Sacramento 115, Golden State 98
L.A. Lakers 111, Houston 82

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	6	3	0	.667	188	160
N.Y. Jets	6	3	0	.667	255	190
Miami	5	4	0	.556	192	182
Buffalo	5	4	0	.556	192	189
South						
Tennessee	9	0	0	1.000	220	117
Indianapolis	5	4	0	.556	191	197
Jacksonville	4	5	0	.444	198	186
Houston	3	6	0	.333	209	254
North						
Pittsburgh	6	3	0	.667	198	140
Baltimore	6	3	0	.667	212	150
Cleveland	3	6	0	.333	172	194
Cincinnati	1	8	0	.111	125	236
West						
Denver	5	4	0	.556	224	251
San Diego	4	5	0	.444	244	218
Oakland	2	7	0	.222	113	218
Kansas City	1	8	0	.111	145	243

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

N.Y. Giants	8	1	0	.889	262	160
Washington	6	3	0	.667	171	168
Dallas	5	4	0	.556	216	219
Philadelphia	5	4	0	.556	251	180
South						
Carolina	7	2	0	.778	191	133
Tampa Bay	6	3	0	.667	200	147
Atlanta	6	3	0	.667	211	174
New Orleans	4	5	0	.444	236	229
North						
Chicago	5	4	0	.556	237	194
Minnesota	5	4	0	.556	210	215
Green Bay	4	5	0	.444	237	206
Detroit	0	9	0	.000	151	277
West						
Arizona	5	3	0	.625	234	184
San Francisco	2	6	0	.250	171	230
Seattle	2	7	0	.222	170	231
St. Louis	2	7	0	.222	128	282

Yesterday's Games

Miami 21, Seattle 19
N.Y. Jets 47, St. Louis 3
Tennessee 21, Chicago 14
Minnesota 28, Green Bay 27
Baltimore 41, Houston 13
Jacksonville 38, Detroit 14
Atlanta 34, New Orleans 20
New England 20, Buffalo 10
Carolina 17, Oakland 6
Indianapolis 24, Pittsburgh 20
San Diego 20, Kansas City 19
N.Y. Giants 36, Philadelphia 31

DISNEY CLASSIC SCORES

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Florida (AP)–Final scores Sunday in the $4.6 million PGA Tour event Children's Miracle Network Classic at the par-72, 7,516-yard Magnolia Course:

FINAL

Davis Love III	66-69-64-64	263
Tommy Gainey	68-66-66-64	264
Scott Verplank	64-64-69-71	268
Steve Marino	65-66-66-71	268
Joe Durant	68-68-68-65	269
Kevin Streelman	64-69-69-68	270
Troy Matteson	63-68-69-70	270
Scott Sterling	70-63-66-71	270
Michael Allen	70-67-68-67	272
Chris Stroud	70-68-66-69	273
Bob Estes	70-63-71-69	273
Cameron Beckman	68-68-67-70	273
Tag Ridings	66-66-71-70	273
Tim Petrovic	67-67-68-71	273
Robert Garrigus	65-67-68-73	273
Kevin Stadler	67-71-68-68	274
Jason Day	72-66-70-66	274
Harrison Frazar	67-68-71-68	274
Ryan Palmer	71-65-69-69	274
Jason Gore	66-67-69-72	274
Jimmy Walker	64-72-71-68	275
Jeff Overton	67-68-71-69	275
Steve Flesch	67-68-73-67	275
Martin Laird	68-66-70-71	275
Michael Bradley	70-67-70-69	276
J.B. Holmes	71-68-69-68	276
Brenden Pappas	71-66-67-72	276
Rich Beem	65-70-69-72	276
Charles Howell III	68-68-68-72	276
Tim Clark	69-66-69-72	276
Ken Duke	66-67-69-74	276
Bo Van Pelt	68-66-68-74	276
Matt Jones	70-64-72-71	277
Tim Wilkinson	68-66-72-71	277
Lee Janzen	69-67-72-69	277
Tom Pernice, Jr.	66-67-72-72	277
Robert Allenby	66-72-70-69	277
Stephen Ames	68-68-69-72	277
Carl Pettersson	68-68-73-68	277
John Rollins	68-69-72-68	277
Woody Austin	68-68-69-72	277
Nick Watney	69-70-71-67	277
Vaughn Taylor	68-71-67-72	278
Stewart Cink	66-70-71-71	278
J.J. Henry	67-69-72-70	278
Ted Purdy	69-68-68-73	278
John Riegger	68-69-74-68	279
Bob Sowards	69-68-70-73	280
Omar Uresti	67-72-70-71	280
Robert Gamez	65-67-70-78	280
Marc Turnesa	71-68-72-69	280
Tom Scherrer	69-68-73-71	281
Bob Tway	73-62-75-71	281
Boo Weekley	68-71-71-71	281
Carlos Franco	69-67-75-70	281
Jerry Kelly	71-68-73-69	281
Chris DiMarco	68-71-73-69	281
Patrick Sheehan	68-71-73-69	281
Mathias Gronberg	67-71-77-66	281
Erik Compton	70-68-72-72	282
Heath Slocum	71-67-73-71	282
Will MacKenzie	68-69-73-73	283
Zach Johnson	66-72-74-71	283
Richard S. Johnson	70-68-76-70	284
Y.E. Yang	68-68-75-74	285
Dudley Hart	70-69-74-72	285
Todd Demsey	67-70-75-74	286
Frank Lickliter II	74-65-76-71	286
Kirk Triplett	65-70-76-76	287
Jeff Maggert	73-66-79-80	298

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Men's Division

Freedom Air	2	0
Legislature	2	0
Joeten Motors	2	0
Beach Boys	2	0
Law & Order	2	0
DCCA	2	0
CPA	2	0
DLNR	1	1
P & S	1	1
Saipan Cell	1	1
CUC	1	1
No Zone	1	1
CHC	1	1
PIC	0	2
PSS	0	2
Customs	0	2
DEQ/CRM	0	2
Mayors	0	2
POI	0	2
Hopwood	0	2

Women's Division

DCCA	2	1
NMC	1	0
Finance	1	1
CUC	0	1
CHC	0	1

PILCOWA STANDINGS

Century Insurance	5	1
MIGS	5	1
Diamond Auto Care	3	3
Aon Insurance	2	3
C&R/NRG	2	3
Olivos/Reliance Const.	1	4
San Miguel Light	0	5

SBA 8-BALL STANDINGS

Agingan Division

PTI Voyagers	37	11
Docomo Hustlers	36	12
Islander Rent A Car	30	18
USSP Wat-Ever	15	33
Godfather's Rock Steady	15	33
Coral Reef Shark Attack	11	37

Obyan Division

Primo's Home Boys	31	17
Perfect Spotters	28	20
USSP Fotten Palau	27	21
D'Pirates Huwa	23	25
Coral Reef Barracuda	18	30
VFW Warriors	17	31

2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League

Photos by ROSELYN MONROYO

Above, pennant and back-to-back champions CNMI Junior Nationals pose with Saipan Rotarians and league organizers during the award ceremony for the 2008 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Above right, runnerup Rollers I gathers for a group photo after losing to the Junior Nationals in the finals, 52-70.

Left, third placer San Antonio Sixers defeated the G-Stars in the consolation match, 65-54.

Above, fourth placer and sportsmanship awardee G-Stars receive their trophy. The team is represented by coach Jose Tumaquip, fourth left, and player Eddie Manalili, fifth left.

Far left, the Rotary All-Star Selection, front row, from left the Rollers I's Manny Matagolai, Junior Nationals' Jericho Cruz, and the Sixers' Ernest Duenas and Joe Ada. Not in the photo was the Kontenders' Trevor Ogumoro.

Left, scoring champion Manny Matagolai, fourth left, of the Rollers I.

Regular season and Finals MVP Jericho Cruz, second left, scored 20 points in the Junior Nationals title win over the Rollers I.

Above, the Junior Nationals' Jericho Cruz challenges the defense of Rollers I during their title match.

Members and officials of the Saipan Rotary Club turn over a check donation for the 18-and-under caging, which is organized by the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands.

Below, the G-Stars' Clayton Kenty pulls up for a shot against two Sixers defenders during their battle for third place.

The Junior Nationals' Marvin Rabauliman is sandwiched by two Rollers I defenders.

Voyagers, Home Boys maintain pole positions

PTI Voyagers and Primo's Home Boys continued to lead their respective divisions in the Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Collins makes sure Titans to stay unbeaten

Kerry Collins threw for 289 yards and two touchdowns, and the Tennessee Titans beat the Chicago Bears 21-14 Sunday to remain undefeated.

24

Brotherhood, Sakudi top Belau softball

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association Softball League champions Brotherhood, left, and Sakudi, pose with their trophies Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield. Brotherhood won the men's title after defeating Man Amigos, while Sakudi prevailed over the Hitters in the women's finals.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Brotherhood and Sakudi ruled the 2008 Belau Amateur Softball Association Softball League after edging separates foes Sunday at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Brotherhood, which won the season's pennant, collided with Man Amigos in a best-of-three title series.

The pennant champion drew first blood, escaping with a 10-9 win in an extended Game 1, which was played in nine innings.

First baseman Bernard Kilelеman scored the winning run at the bottom of the ninth on a Tito Limes single.

But Brotherhood failed to secure the title early when Man Amigos recovered in Game 2 with a 6-5 victory.

Game 2 was also extended with James Fleming making the winning run at the top of the ninth on a Ben Mesa single

After engaging in two closely fought battles, Brotherhood was finally able to pull away in the deciding Game 3, notching an 11-4 triumph.

Shortstop Jerry Ayuyu connected on two homers in Game 3 to help Brotherhood secure the championship.

Ayuyu had a standup homer at the bottom of the sixth where Brotherhood scored three runs.

Outfielder Julian Camacho, who had a triple in the first inning, made a two-run single in the second, as Brotherhood added five more runs and led at 8-0, after two complete innings.

Man Amigos finally scored at the top of the fourth with Joey Dela Cruz reaching home plate on a Jeff Cabrera sacrifice fly.

Extra hitter Shine Tenorio then blasted a three-run homer in the fourth inning, but still it was not enough to bring Man

See BROTHERHOOD on Page 26

Attao rules Rotary golf fundraiser

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Vince Attao bested 28 other golfers to win the Rotary Club of Saipan's 2008 District Governor's Charity Golf Tournament Sunday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Attao carded a net score of 70.80 in the double peoria tournament, which is a fundraising event of the Rotary Club. Attao struggled on the front and back nines with a 50 and 52, but with his 31.20 handicap he still finished on top of the field.

In second place was Yasu Irinaka, who had a net 71 after scoring a 41 and 42 on the front and back nines, respectively. Irinaka sported a 12 handicap.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rotary Club of Saipan's 2008 District Governor's Charity Golf Tournament winner Vince Attao, center, is joined by district governor Nobu Shindo, left, and Rotary Club of Saipan president Ben Babauta.

Former Superior Court presiding judge Ed Manibusan completed the Top 3 with his net 71.40. The 3.4-handicapper Manibusan recorded the lowest gross score of the day after taming the greens and fairways of Laolao with his 35 on the front and 40 on the back nine.

The Top 3 finishers received cash prizes, while golfers who placed fourth to 15th took home gift certificates.

Attao won $500, Irinaka pocketed $400, and Manibusan received $300.

Saipan Community Church pastor Roger Abe won the closest to the pin contest in hole No. 7 and placed 15th in the field.

Also making it to the Top 15 were Kim Kwon Nam (71.45);

See ATTAO on Page 26

Century Insurance secures pennant

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Century Insurance claimed the pennant title in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League after winning the continuation of its match against C&R Distributor/NRG in overtime, 104-96, Sunday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

The Century-C&R tiff was first played on Oct. 25, but was suspended due to rain with the match tied at 61-all, after the third quarter. The game

See CENTURY on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Century Insurance's Dennis Vinas, right, goes up for a layup against Junar Guiab during their game in the Inaugural 2008 PILCOWA-San Miguel Beer Basketball League Saturday night at the CIC Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

2008 Masters Basketball League opening postponed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The opening of the 2008 Masters Basketball League has been moved later this month to give teams time to complete the caging requirements, according to MBL coordinator Arnold Mesa.

Mesa said they are planning to start the 2008 season of MBL on Nov. 25 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, as teams have yet to settle the entrance fee and other requirements.

The league was supposed to kick off last night, but in a meeting last week, organizers decided to postpone it pending discussions on rules and other matters related to the league.

Mesa said instead of the initial plan of having one division, the league will be holding competitions in two age groups, namely the 35-and-above and 40-and-above.

Earlier, Mesa said teams can have on their rosters only four players in the 35 to 39 age group. The remaining eight players must be in the 40-and-above age group.

But after a meeting attended by team representatives and officials from the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, there was a consensus to have a separate competition for two age groups.

See 2008 on Page 26